

Coweta County MGEV Volunteer Meeting September 14th, 2023

Executive Board in Attendance: Patty Ellis, Diane Cook, Colleen Stephens, Pat Lincoln

28 Master Gardeners were in attendance as well as Stephanie Butcher, Extension Officer, and Dana Selementi, ANR Program Assistant.

The meeting was called to order at 10:02, followed by an inspirational message given by Sonja Lambeck and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Pat Lincoln.

The previous Volunteer Meeting Minutes from July 13th, 2023 were approved.

Officer reports

- President- Patty Ellis – Welcomed the new President Elect, Diane Cook.
- President Elect- Diane Cook – No Report
- Vice President- C. R. Phillips – Not Present
- Secretary- Pat Lincoln – No Report
- Treasurer- Colleen Stephens- See Financial Report Below
- Past President – Mark Hess – Not Present

Extension Officer – Stephanie Butcher gave an overview of the various responsibilities the Extension Office has in addition to the MGEV Program. She said the position of Family and Consumer Sciences is still vacant but that she is actively looking for someone to fill this position. Stephanie also explained the complexities involved in maintain the financials and budgets for the Extension Office. She also explained why MGEV has a budget and how that folds into the Extension Office finances.

ANR Program Assistant – Dana Selementi – provided everyone with a copy of the updated Master Gardener Program Brochure. She pointed out the removal of the logo as well as the deletion of the “Extension” from the Master Gardener Program. She said that some MGEV Organization had just recently ordered and bought new t-shirts and caps with the old logo and were considered they would not be able to wear them. Dana assured everyone that these items can still be used. She also mentioned that interviews will be set up next week for the applicants applying for the 2024 MGEV Training.

Financial reports

- Treasurer, Colleen Stephens, said we currently have \$32,857.33 in the MGEV Account. There will be a Budget Meeting in October.

Committee reports

- Ask the MGEV/Market Day – Harley Stewart – No Report
- BYA – Melanie Landrum: Seventy people attended the Tuesday night BYA presentation by JoHannah Biang, Hills & Dales, about Fall Vegetable Gardening. Schedule for the remainder of the year is as follows:
 - **October** – Gabrielle LaTora – Insect Allies: Predators and Parasitoids in the Garden (ANR Agent North Fulton County – Entomologist)

- **October** – 10 AM Morning Glory – Jason Powell – Party with Petals plus a plant sale (Petals From the Past). Program will be held at the Fairgrounds.
- **November** – To Be Determined
- Boys and Girls Club – Rebecca Gibson was unable to attend today's but provided an up-date. A new Executive Director was hired, Khing Banks. Rebecca has met with him and discussed the program that has been submitted in the past. Erosion is occurring at the site and the City is making plans to correct the problem. Plans are underway to revamp the garden/work area and the raised beds.
- Communications – Patty Ellis – Working on adding Closed Captioning to the videos so they can be posted on YouTube.
- Demonstration Garden – Kathy Olmsted and Amy Keller – Chuck said the Girl Scouts did a great job helping with the Census Count. This committee is planning for the upcoming season. He indicated there is a need for sturdy boxes and brought a sample to show.
- Education- Cathy LeBar – In November, C. R. Phillips will be presenting a Continuing Education Session on pruning, and weather permitting, actual some hands-on pruning opportunities.
- FPS/SPS – Kathy Olmstead and Kim Magyar – Sold plants at the BYA Program as well as Market Day. The black elephant ears were pretty and were well prices. This gives us an additional source of revenue and gives us an opportunity to sell seasonal plants rather than keeping them for the following year. Currently have 2,279 plants but will schedule intake days for additional plants. At the Spring Plant Sale, the 2023 plants will be sold at a discount. Prices for vegetable plants will increase to \$4 each. Fall plant sale flyers have been submitted for Stephanie's approval.
- Fundraising/Garden Tours- Diane Cook – Planning on having a Propagation workshop in February.
- Greenhouse – Barb Schwartz – Cathy LeBar said they need waterers. They would like to schedule individuals for a several month commitments which would mean they would have to come to the greenhouse a couple of days a week to ensure the plants were watered and doing well.
- Help Desk – Patty Ellis – Things are continuing as usual.
- Hospitality – They are planning to do something special for the Jason Powell Morning Glory Presentation in October.
- Nature Trail – Work will begin again in October.
- Scholarship – Patty Ellis – No Report
- Speakers Bureau – Dan Gentry – No Report.
- Sunshine – Sara Hansen – Gary Brown's mother passed away. Still in touch with Lynn Matthews.
- The New Leaf – Pat Farmer - No Report
- Volunteer Awards – Patty Ellis – 100 Hour Awards: Jerry Allen, Amy Keller, Ed Atkinson, and Ros Johnson. 250 Hours Award: Patty Ellis.

Old Business

- Colleen Stephens will be contacting the Committee Chairs to obtain a description of their committees' duties and responsibilities. This information will be added to the updated version of the MGEV Handbook.

- 2024 Class – We have received 27 Applications. Next week the applications will be reviewed and appointments made to conduct interviews.
- Chairs are reminded to submit their budget requests. A budget meeting will be scheduled for sometime in October to finalize the 2024 budget.
- Be sure to check your emails as there will be a lot of workdays coming up soon.

New Business

- It is time to submit nominations for Master Gardener of the year. The rules are (1) They can not be on the Board (2) They cannot have received the award in prior years and (3) They must be an active MGEV.
- Reminder that all MGEVs must take the Risk Management Training before October 30th. If a Master Gardener fails to complete the training, they will be placed on inactive status.
- The Annual Holiday Party is tentatively scheduled for December 6th. However, if there is a run-off election, the party will have to be moved to December 13th as the building is a polling location.
- Thoughtful Thursday will be this week at 2:00. It will be about trees.

Upcoming Volunteer Meeting dates for 2023:

Thursday November 9th at 10 AM

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 AM

Minutes prepared by Pat Lincoln