**Coweta County MGEV Volunteer Meeting**

**July 13th, 2023**

Executive Board in Attendance: Patty Ellis, C. R. Phillips, Colleen Stephens, Pat Lincoln

38 Master Gardeners were in attendance as well as Dana Selementi, ANR Program Assistant.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00, followed by an inspirational message given by Patty Ellis and the Pledge of Allegiance led by C. R. Phillips.

The previous Volunteer Meeting Minutes from May11th, 2023 were approved.

**Officer reports**

* President- Patty Ellis – I will be out of town and only available by email July 21-24 and August 18th to September 1st.
* President Elect- Open Position
* Vice President- C. R. Phillips – No Report
* Secretary- Pat Lincoln – No Report
* Treasurer- Colleen Stephens- See Financial Report Below
* Past President – Mark Hess – Not Present
* ANR Program Assistant – Dana Selementi – We are still working on the communication committee and need people to edit videos so that they can be posted online, record videos, and chair the committee. She is getting ready to send out applications for the 2024 MGEV class.

**Financial reports**

* Treasurer Colleen Stephens, presented the current financials.
  + Beginning Balance $29,175.19 Ending Balance $41,668.52. Ms. Stephens said there is a discrepancy between the SPS Report and hers. She will meet with them to determine and correct any misstatements.

**Committee reports**

* Ask the MGEV/Market Day – Harley Stewart – Continuing to staff the booth on the first Saturday of the month.
* BYA – Melanie Landrum:
  + **August** – Trecia Neal – Native Plants
  + **September** – JoHannah Biang – Fall Vegetable Gardening (Horticulture Manager - Hills & Dales)
  + **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.
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  + **November** – To Be Determined
* Boys and Girls Club – Rebecca Gibson was unable to attend today’s meeting as she was giving a presentation to the Kiwanis Club.
* Communications – Patty Ellis – There are two automatic daily postings on Facebook. She encouraged members to “like” and share. Dana Selementi indicated she has two or three videos from prior BYA and Continuing Education Presentations ready for editing and having the closed captioning added. We are looking for a committee chair.
* Demonstration Garden – Kathy Olmsted and Amy Keller – The demo garden looks very pretty and several plants are in bloom.
* Education- Cathy LeBar – Today’s Continuing Education Program (Pollinators) was held at 9:00 AM today. The committee will meet after today’s meeting to plan future CE’s.
* FPS/SPS – Kathy Olmstead and Kim Magyar – The final profit numbers were presented. As noted in the Financial Presentation, there is a difference between the Treasurer’s numbers and what was reported today. They will meet and determine the difference.
* Fundraising/Garden Tours- Diane Cook – We are looking for new ideas for fund raising projects. Thanked the Garden Owners, Demo Garden Workers, and Nature Trail Workers for their hard work in preparing their gardens for the tour. A total of 120 tour tickets were sold. We will not have another tour in 2024 but will plan for one in 2026.
* Greenhouse – Barb Schwartz – We have 400 pots ready for plantings. So far this month, we have taken in 329 plants. Because of the heat, we have instituted a “Buddy System” for those volunteers working in the greenhouse and watering the plants. Let us know the day(s) you would like to work and we will find you a buddy. Also, in talks about starting a Central Library for storing seeds.
* Help Desk – Patty Ellis – We are continuing with the Remote Help Desk; however, we do need volunteers to work the In-Person Help Desk on Mondays and Friday. There are two shifts: 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM and 12:30 PM – 5:00 PM. Training is available and takes about one hour.
* Hospitality – Amy Sharpe – We need volunteers to bake cookies for the BYA Presentations. The cookies have been a huge success and attendees look forward to them. Please contact the Hospitality Committee and let them know what month you will be providing the cookies.
* Nature Trail – Audrey Harrelson presented on behalf of Ed & Melanie Atkinson – They are meeting on the 1st and 3rd Mondays from 10:00 AM until 12:00 Noon. Because of the heat, only doing weeding right now. Really need more volunteers to keep up the trail. Please come if you can only stay for a short period of time.
* Scholarship – Patty Ellis – No Report
* Speakers Bureau – Dan Gentry – Had a “bust” attendance of only 7 at the lunch time presentation given to the Piedmont Newnan Hospital Wellness Program. Reconsidering whether to do the remaining presentations scheduled there for this year.
* Sunshine – Sara Hansen – Lynn Matthews is remains on the Sunshine List.
* The New Leaf – Pat Farmer - No Report
* Volunteer Awards – Patty Ellis – 100 Hour Awards: Amy Barnes, Marge Cox, Donna Dietz, Greg Emerson, Pat Farmer, Carol Fuller, Dave Granroos, Nan Van Patten, Kim Magyar. 500 Hour Award: Cathy LeBar.

**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. Chairs will also be asked to outline basics of expenditures for their committee.
* 2024 Class – There are currently 80 people on the list for next year’s class. Applications will go out in July/August and selections made. The 2024 Training Class Committee consists of the following: Amy Barnes, P. Funk, Cathy LeBar, Pat Lincoln, C R Phillips, Barb Schwartz, and Nan Van Patten.
* Reminder for everyone to wear their name tags to meetings and events.

**New Business**

* We need to start working on the 2024 Budget. Ms. Stephens noted that while we currently have approximately $42K in our account, $20K must be reserved for expenses. Patty will send out an email to committee chairs regarding budget requests.
* Because of the success of the SPS, scholarships will be provided for Advanced Training. For a Master Gardener to be considered, they will need to make a commitment and show how the training will benefit the organization. This year, $500 will be allocated for Advanced Training Scholarships. This also needs to be added to the 2024 Budget.
* The Coweta County Fair will be held September 14th through the 24th. There will not be as many volunteers’ hours available this year as some exhibit intakes will be done on-line. Dana Selementi will have more information available in the next few weeks.
* Our primary means of communicating with members is by email. Be sure we have your current contact information.
* Preparations are underway for the Pollinator Census which will be conducted August 18th and 19th. The Demo Garden and the plantings in front of the building will be the sites observed. The census can also be conducted in your own yard. Some discussion was held about involving the schools since they have pollinator gardens by sending out Flyers. It was explained that all flyers must be pre-approved by the Board of Education before being distributed to students.
* We have implemented a new committee, Extension Landscape (name change to come soon), that will be chaired by Cathy LeBar. Cathy reports that she has talked to people about joining the committee, including having co-chairs, and will be working on projects in the future. Funding will come from the county at this time.
* Free seeds will be on the front table at the end of the meeting for members.

**Upcoming Volunteer Meeting dates for 2023:**

-Thursday September 14th at 10 AM

Meeting adjourned at 11:07 AM

Minutes prepared by Pat Lincoln