

Coweta County MGEV Volunteer Meeting November 9th, 2023

Executive Board in Attendance: C. R. Phillips, Diane Cook, Colleen Stephens, Pat Lincoln

38 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 10:06, followed by an inspirational message given by Sonja Lambeck and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Pat Lincoln.

The previous Volunteer Meeting Minutes from September 14th, 2023 were approved.

Officer reports

- President- Patty Ellis – Not Present
- President Elect- Diane Cook – No Report
- Vice President- C. R. Phillips – Presided on behalf of Patty Ellis
- Secretary- Pat Lincoln – No Report
- Treasurer- Colleen Stephens- See Financial Report Below
- Past President – Mark Hess – Not Present

Extension Officer – Stephanie Butcher - She went over the new sign-in process required by UGA and explained why it was necessary for both members and guests. She also talked about the upcoming classes for the new students and said that MGEVs were welcome to audit the classes. She explained that the program will be conducted differently from past years and that some of the classes will be online. As soon as the training schedule is completed, it will be made available.

ANR Program Assistant – Dana Selementi – Emails were sent out to the new students Monday and she is now working on a training scheduled. There will be approximately 30 students in this class. The Volunteer Annual Intent to Renew Form was given to members and they were asked to complete the form before leaving the meeting and giving it to her. She said the forms will be emailed to those not in attendance at the meeting. Dana asked members to go to the kitchen and pick-up the t-shirts on the table; the information on the shirts have changed and can no longer be sold.

Financial reports

- Treasurer, Colleen Stephens, went over the proposed 2024 Budget and answered members questions.

Committee reports

- Ask the MGEV/Market Day – Harley Stewart – No Report
- BYA – Melanie Landrum: Thanked everyone for attending and making the programs a success.
- Boys and Girls Club – No Report
- Communications – Jerry Allen – Need folks to help with videotaping, running a camera for live streaming, and doing closed captioning. The work can be done at home. Ideally would like to have five or six people on the committee. Also working on the possibility of broadcasting our meetings live.

- Demonstration Garden – Kathy Olmsted and Amy Keller – Thanked everyone for their hard work.
- Education- Cathy LeBar – C. R. Phillips will be presenting a Continuing Education Session on pruning.
- FPS/SPS – Chuck Olmstead – Gave an update on the Fall Plant Sale indicating gross sales were \$6,800.
- Fundraising/Garden Tours – Cathy LeBar – No Report.
- Greenhouse – Barb Schwartz – Thanked everyone for helping at the greenhouse. She said it is now heated and asked members to start bringing plants. She said they need more volunteers.
- Help Desk – Patty Ellis – C. R. spoke about his experience working the Help Desk and encourage others to volunteer.
- Hospitality – Amy Sharpe – Had a very good year and thanked all that helped. Need volunteers to bake cookies.
- Nature Trail – Ed Atkinson – Cleaning up the trail. Now have a spigot near the Pavilion which will make watering easier.
- Scholarship – Jennie Adcock – No Report
- Speakers Bureau – Dan Gentry – No Report.
- Sunshine – Sara Hansen – Still keeping in touch with Lyn Matthews.
- The New Leaf – Pat Farmer - No Report
- Volunteer Awards – C. R. Phillis for Patty Ellis – 100 Hour awards attainment since the last meeting: Sonjia Lambeck, Pat Lincoln, Stephanie Odom, and Dale Senko. Cathy LeBar has passed 750 hours this year

Old Business

- Collen Stephens has put together all the committee information that she has received for the handbook. Patty Ellis plans to update the handbook in early 2024 and have it ready for the new class.
- Be sure to report all your CE hours for 2023.
- Be sure to check your emails as there will be a lot of workdays coming up soon.

New Business

- The 2024 Budget was presented to the members who unanimously voted to approve it as presented.
- The Annual Holiday Party is scheduled for December 13th.
- Ballots for the Election of 2024 Board was passed out to members and collected during the meeting. The results were that the 2024 Board was approved by a voting of 35 yeses and 3 nos.

Next Volunteer meeting will be held January 11th, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM
Minutes prepared by Pat Lincoln