

**Board Meeting Minutes**

**Aug 4, 2020**

**Opening**

The regular board meeting of the Linn County Master Gardeners Association was called to order at 1:03pm via Zoom.

**Present**

Kelly Muller, President

Brenda Winslow, 2nd Vice President

Betty Goergen, Treasurer

Ranee Webb, Member at Large and Past President

Karin Magnuson, Member at Large

Ann Kinkley- Alt OMGA Rep

Brooke Edmunds – OSU Extension

Elizabeth Records - OSU Extension

Susan Morton

Nancy Messman

Peg Duerr

**Approval of Minutes**

July minutes were approved by the Board.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Deposits for the month of July were $35.00 from a Bee Supplies sale.

Expenses for the month were $321.50 for the purchase of 45 children’s books –“A Bee Called Bob”.

The bank balance as of Aug 1, 2020 was $18,768.33 and the CD balance was $10,062.47.

**Demo Garden – Kelly Muller – Ranee Webb**

There have been a series of issues with vandalism at the demo garden. It appears that a homeless person has been living at the demo garden has been vandalizing the public area. Two benches were destroyed as well as other damage. In a separate incident there was also a break-in. The chain with a lock at the back gate was cut to access the fenced area. Then the front part of the shed was broken into. The chipper, drip irrigation supplies, the laminator, about half the chemicals and various other items were taken. The Linn County Sheriff was called each time. The sheriff will do more patrols of the area, but on one has been identified as a suspect in any of the incidents. Our insurance only covers liability for someone being injured and not property replacement. (Betty reported that the liability insurance price went up to $472. That is $72 over what was budgeted).

The demo garden irrigation system needs upgrades, since the irrigation system is not currently covering many areas. Volunteers are spending most of their time at the Demo Garden doing hand watering. Kelly will get bids. Betty said she would help.

A MOU (Memorandum of Mutual Understanding) with OSU and the Expo Center still has to be done/revised. We discovered that there is only an MOU with the Expo Center for the area that is fenced although we have used a large area outside the fenced area for years.

The Expo Center will have a list of contacts as part of the MOU. Those demo garden contacts would be Kelly Muller, Ranee Webb, Janice Gregg, Dave Krieger, Barb Coffman and Melinda Marion. (Larry Steele might be added too).

There was also discussion about getting security cameras installed. Kelly Muller and Betty Goergen will investigate options.

*A motion was made that the Demo Garden Team use up to $5000 for irrigation upgrades and security cameras. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board.* The MOU for use of the area outside the fence has to be in place before money is spent on the irrigation upgrades.

**Extension Reports- Brooke Edmunds - Elizabeth Records**

Brooke said she had not heard from the Fairgrounds about the MOU, but would check soon.

She asked if there might be an interest in an “all-volunteer Zoom meeting”. The Board did not think that was needed at this time. Brooke will send out a mailing to all members about how Covid-19 impacts master gardener volunteers.

The Linn Extension office is open now, but not all staff is working at the office. Many are still working from home. OSU requirements state that there must be a 35 square foot spacing per person due to the virus.

New trainees will have a Tree Plant Scenario ID session with Pat Breen in Aug that will be presented through Zoom.

A survey was sent out about how best to serve master gardeners. There was a lot of interest in webinars, gardening podcasts, on-line classes, YouTube presentations with follow-up discussions, and gardening buddy chats. We might want to develop self-guided educational walks with topics like “street trees of Albany”. On-line plant clinics are working well in Benton County. Teams of people do the on-line plant clinic and others do the diagnostic and tech part. These are all options that we can develop.

**Bee Harvesting - Susan Morton**

There was a discussion about how we will handle October/November cocoon harvesting classes and also the late October harvesting of our cocoons from supersites. A proposed plan for the cocoon harvesting classes is that Susan Morton and Ranee Webb would record a cocoon harvesting class. The public could watch the video session. The video could be shown on several dates with a live follow-up Q & A session at the end of each. Brooke said she would provide technical help.

For the harvesting of our super-site cocoons, we are proposing meeting at Rich Little’s house with up to 8 volunteers per day and meeting 3-4 days. We would wear masks, work outside or in a large open-air garage and use social distancing. Woodpeckers have gotten into some of the sites, so we really need every cocoon from all the sites to continue our mason bee educational project.

Brooke will need these proposals in writing, so she can get approval from OSU. Susan will work on the written proposals.

**Garden Tour – Nancy Messman**

Nancy said that she had attended a walk-by front yard garden tour that also had a scavenger hunt. That might be a possibility for next year’s garden tour. Donation instead of a ticket might be an option too. We will likely have to limit numbers.

There was an update on some health issues of master gardeners and their families.

The Board meeting adjourned at 2:10pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ranee Webb (Substitute for Ann Capps)