

**Board Meeting Minutes**

**Nov 3, 2020**

**Opening**

The regular board meeting of the Linn County Master Gardeners Association was called to order at 1:04pm 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

Dan Murphy, Member at Large

Janice Gregg- OMGA Rep

Ann Kinkley- Alt OMGA Rep

Brooke Edmunds – OSU Extension

Elizabeth Records - OSU Extension

Susan Morton

Nancy Messman

Peg Duerr

**Approval of Minutes**

October minutes were not distributed, so approval is delayed until the December Board meeting.

**Treasurer’s Report**

There was no income for October.

Expenses for the month were $60.66 for demo garden maintenance/repairs and $105.72 for Demo Garden supplies. Additionally, the website cost was $122.83.

The bank balance as of Nov 1, 2020 was $18,113.09 and the CD balance was $10,125.33.

A proposed budget from Kelly, Betty and Ranee was presented. *After discussion and some changes, a motion was made, seconded, and the Board approved the proposed budget.* There is recognition that with COVID impacting our fundraising, we are having to do a “best estimate” on income. With the Beevent Pollinator Conference changing to a podcast/Q&A format we hope we can meet that estimated income. *Any additional changes in the 2021 Budget will be voted on at the December Board meeting.*

*A motion was made, seconded, and approved that LCMGA would waive membership dues for this coming year*. People may still pay dues or give donations if they want to do that. Anyone who paid dues in 2020 will continue to be a member and will be included in the 2021 directory. 2020 certifications would continue and not change in 2021 per OMGA (even if required hours were not met this year). OMGA recognizes that restrictions this year due to COVID made re-certification difficult for many.

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

The master gardener program year ended on Oct 31st. Brooke asked that everyone put in their hours as soon as possible if you haven’t already finished recording your hours. These hours are used for various State and OMGA reports. Elizabeth will be working on certification reports soon.

All volunteers should fill out the required Master Gardener volunteer paperwork that was recently sent via e-mail. Those who don’t use computers will have paperwork sent to them via regular mail.

Candice Russo, from OSU Moore Family Center for Preventative Health, has contacted Brooke to ask if any master gardeners would be interested in partnering with an OSU program to support cancer survivors. Volunteers would be in contact with the cancer survivors and give help with gardening advice. More information will be in the weekly e-mail for those who are interested.

The weekly e-mail from Extension will be changed to every 2 weeks for now. With less activity during the winter months there seems to be less of a need for weekly e-mails.
Special messages can still go out as needed.

There was a short discussion about graduation this year. There will not be a graduation meeting, but it was decided that a Zoom meeting would be a good way for continuing master gardeners to welcome the new trainee master gardeners and to recognize accomplishments of continuing master gardeners. Graduating trainees will be getting a package with small gifts and their badges mailed to them. Some trainees will be on a 2-year plan. Elizabeth will put a list in the weekly e-mail of the trainees who have completed the requirements and also a list of those on the 2-year plan.

**Demo Garden Report – Kelly Muller – Betty Goergen**

Two companies have been contacted for bids on upgrading the demo garden irrigation system. We have the bid from one company and are waiting for the second bid before moving forward. Ranee and Kelly will continue to work with Randy Porter at the Expo Center and with Brooke to get a new MOU in place. Randy has agreed that we can move forward with the irrigation upgrade.

The demo garden volunteers spent the last couple weeks prepping the garden for winter closure. About 30 pounds of winter squash was taken by Larry to F.I.S.H of Albany food bank.

In mid-February, the demo garden team will have a planning meeting. Also, in February we will have some group demos and group work on pruning (espalier fruit trees, blueberries, grapes). Sue Wilson will work on crop rotation plans. The larger beds at the demo garden will be used as food bank production beds next year.

**Bee Harvesting - Susan Morton**

There have been two cocoon cleaning sessions at Rich Little’s home with two more this week. If needed we will add more. These are going well with good social distancing, mask wearing and sanitation measures in place. Rich’s site had significant issues with mites this year, but the woodpecker damage wasn’t as severe as he had expected. Rich is doing a lot of research this year to see if he can find better methods for controlling mites. This second week of harvesting will be divided into morning and afternoon sessions which will eliminate some issues with expected rain. Rich has a large open garage area and a covered porch that makes social distancing easy. A large variety of pests were seen, so this was a good leaning experience for those attending.

Susan and Ranee recently recorded a podcast/webinar on mason bees and the harvesting of cocoons. This podcast is available for the public to watch. People can sign up for Q & A sessions. There are 3 more sessions over the next 2 weeks that are open to all.

**Voting for 2021 Board – Kelly Muller**

A ballot has been prepared for membership to vote on the 2021 Board slate. Only one person per position has volunteered, but write-in votes are welcome. Elizabeth will send out the ballots via e-mail and members will send the ballots to Betty Goergen for a private tabulation.

**OMGA Meeting Prep- Janice Gregg**

The next OMGA Board meeting is this coming weekend. Janice asked for help with the quarterly report. Ranee volunteered to write a draft report.

The Board meeting adjourned at 1:55pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ranee Webb

(Substitute for Ann Capps)