

**Eau Claire Area Master Gardeners
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 9, 2017
6:30 PM**

Members present: Mary Jane Griffin, Nina Logan, Lori Kempen, Dick Lienhardt, Ede Strand, Carla Pelzl

Call to order: President Mary Jane Griffin called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Plant Sale update: Sue Mertens, Plant Sale Chairperson, summarized the plans for the June plant sale. A new concern this year is the possibility that jumping worms could be spread if any of our donated plants contain infected soil. To ensure as much as possible that the plants we sell are not infected, the following measures are being suggested:

- Check plant donations as they come in: Have the plants been dug, roots rinsed, and plants repotted in fresh, bagged soil mix?
- Donated plants may not be dropped off ahead but must be brought to the site on the day of the sale.
- Educate our members via the monthly newsletter and emails sent out by Erin LaFaive.
- Educate the volunteers who will be assisting customers at the sale.
- Have print materials about jumping worms available for customers to take with them.

Since it is likely we will have fewer plants to sell this year, we need to come up with other ways to help raise funds, such as selling other garden-related items.

Memorial: Long-time Master Gardener Rolf Utegaard, part of the county's first MG training class, passed away recently. It was decided to give \$100 in Rolf's memory toward a MG scholarship for the next entry-level training class, which will probably take place next spring. The motion was made by Lori K., seconded by Nina; the motion passed. Rolf's wife Sharon will be informed about the memorial gift. Lori will approach Carol Cox about creating a nice certificate to present to the scholarship recipient.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the January meeting were reviewed and accepted as written. (motion by Dick Lienhardt, seconded by Lori Kempen)

Education Committee Report:

Upcoming presentations:

- February 21st: Raising Backyard Chickens – Tom Stallman
- March (tentative plan): Gordon Petchow – The Science Behind Organic Soils & Gardening
- April: Darrel Reed – How to Get Started Gardening (especially for new gardeners)
- June: Plant sale – no monthly program
- July: Tour of Dick Lienhardt's vegetable garden

Nina and Lori expressed their thanks to those volunteers who helped make the Winter Garden Seminar a success. 150 attended the event, and the evaluations were mostly positive. We discussed whether our group should co-host a joint seminar, involving possibly three counties' MG organizations. The board felt it would be very complicated to plan and implement and is not recommending a joint seminar. The 2018 Ready, Set, Grow seminar will be held February 3rd at the technical school. Nina will secure the date.

Horticulture Educator's Report: Erin was not able to be present to report.

WIMGA representative's report: Ellen was not able to be present and will report at the March meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Ede Strand

Nina Logan moved that Ede's report be accepted as presented, with final figures (not yet available from the bank) being included in next month's report. Seconded by Lori. Motion passed.

New Business: Board members have received some complaints about our election procedures. We agreed that it has been some time since those procedures and our by-laws were reviewed and updated. It was noted that a list of nominees should really be published in the newsletter a month before elections, and that the election of board members should be held in November instead of December when we have our annual Christmas Potluck. Lori made a motion that we table the by-laws discussion until next month. Motion seconded by Ede Strand; motion passed. Mary Jane asked that board members prepare to discuss the by-laws by reviewing them before our March meeting. It was suggested that the by-laws be published on our website.

Adjournment: Lori K. moved adjournment at 7:45 PM; seconded by Dick Lienhardt. The motion passed. Our next meeting will be Thursday, March 9th, 6:30 PM at the Extension Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Pelzl, Secretary