

Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Association
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 9, 2017
Extension Office
6:30 P.M.

Members present: Ellen Terwilliger, Nancy Spak, Jerry Richards, Mary Jane Griffin, Dick Lienhardt, Lori Kempen, Ede Strand, Erin LaFaive

The meeting was called to order by President Mary Jane Griffin at 6:30 PM.

Plant Sale Update – Susan Mertens, Plant Sale Chairperson

Due to concerns about the threat of jumping worms, at the next education meeting Susan will address how to prepare our plant donations to avoid spreading these pests to customers' gardens. Since the extra work involved will likely mean fewer plants will be donated, there are plans to sell other kinds of gardening-related items. The sale committee will select three additional gardening products, such as gardening gloves, wind chimes, etc., to sell at a modest profit. Nancy mentioned that turtle planters filled with succulents would make an attractive item to sell.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the February board meeting were reviewed and approved as written (motion to approve by Ellen, seconded by Nancy). The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – Ede Strand

The ending balance as of March 8th was \$11,264.63. This year's winter garden seminar lost money. Many costs were up from last year, including the food, printing costs, and speaker fees. Nancy moved that the treasurer's report be accepted; Dick seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Horticulture Educator's Report – Erin LaFaive

- The school at the former St. Bede's Priory will include gardening in the activities for the children in their program.
- The position of Fiscal Associate in the Extension office, which had been vacant for some time, has been filled. The new associate will begin March 20, 2017, freeing Erin who had taken on those duties in the interim.
- The Extension office's annual report is available on the website.
- Erin is taking an online course on the use of Cover Crops. There are plans to use cover crops at the Jeffers Community garden site. It was mentioned that Chad Zutter of Elk Mound Seed might be interested in donating the seed. Erin also mentioned the possibility of getting a grant to cover the costs.
- Erin's current title is Lecturer. Her title will be up for review and may be changed to Senior Lecturer.
- Erin will present on the topic of Seed Starting April 18th at the Altoona Public Library. In May Darrel Reed will give a Gardening 101 presentation at the library; these programs are open to the public. The April and May programs at the library will also serve as our usual monthly educational meetings for master gardener volunteers.

Education Committee Report – Lori Kempen

Educational program topics for the remainder of the year include:

- March: Gordon Petschow will be discussing caring for and improving the soil in our gardens.
- April: Erin LaFaive – Starting Seeds
- May: Darrel Reed – Gardening 101, or Beginning Gardening

- June: Plant Sale (no monthly educational meeting)
- July: A tour of Dick Lienhardt's vegetable garden

Additional programs for the remainder of the year are still being finalized. Possibilities include touring the South Side Community Garden at Fairfax Park, and a presentation by Ellen Terwilliger (in November or January) on the growing of cacao beans in Costa Rica. Ellen and her husband visited Costa Rica recently.

WIMGA Representative's report: Ellen Terwilliger

- The state conference is being held in West Bend October 13-14, 2017.
- Ellen is part of a committee that is developing a state-wide Speakers' Bureau that will be a valuable resource for Master Gardener associations seeking qualified speakers for educational programs and gardening seminars.

Winter Garden Seminar update: The seminar planning committee will meet March 23rd to assess the 2017 seminar and will begin planning for the 2018 Winter Garden Seminar.

By-laws: The by-laws are to be reviewed and revised if needed every two years. Ellen will send the by-laws in a form that can be edited. She will review/revise Sections I and II, which we had begun working on at our board meeting. She suggested that each board member should review the by-laws document we receive from Ellen and email suggested changes to the secretary by April 6th. That will give Carla time to prepare a draft of the by-laws, including suggested revisions, for our review at the April meeting.

The next board meeting is April 13, 2017 at 6:30 PM at the Extension Office.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carla Pelzl, Secretary