

**Eau Claire Area Master Gardeners
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 10, 2016
6:30PM**

1. Call to order – Amy Boettcher, President

In attendance: Deb Spickler, Nancy Spak, Nina Logan, Ede Strand, Dick Lienhardt, Mary Jane Griffin, Amy Boettcher, Carla Pelzl, Erin LaFaive, Susan Mertens

2. Minutes – Carla Pelzl, Secretary

Minutes from the September and October board meetings were reviewed.

The September minutes were corrected as follows: Deb Spickler's name was added to the list of those present at the meeting. The minutes were approved as corrected. Motion by Nancy Spak, seconded by Dick Lienhardt.

The October minutes were corrected as follows: The keynote speaker at the Ready, Set, Grow seminar is Tim Johnson from Seed Savers' Exchange, not Neil Dibold as had been listed. There was also a correction to the date for the June plant sale. Ede Strand confirmed that June 11th is the correct date; June 4th is not being considered as a possible alternate date. The minutes were approved as corrected. Motion by Dick Lienhardt, seconded by Deb Spickler.

3. Treasurer's Report – Ede Strand

Ede reported a balance at the end of October of \$12,476.82. Our current balance is \$13,203.62. The report was accepted with thanks.

4. Horticulture Educator's Report – Erin LaFaive

- 56 master gardeners have paid their dues. 52 volunteers submitted hours; 47 of those volunteers completed the minimum number of hours required for certification. The total volunteer hours as of October was 2,432. The final total will be higher, since Erin has received additional submissions. Statewide volunteer hour totals for the last several years have been steady and trending upward a bit.
- The Wisconsin and Minnesota MG organizations by cooperating on planning their state conferences in an effort to encourage more MG's to attend both conference. Possibilities could include selecting differing conference dates and speaker topics and setting up dual online registration for convenience.
- A Master Composter curriculum will be fit into the MG training and will be up on our chapter website.
- Erin is having to take on extra responsibilities, such as tracking dues payments and keeping the books, since the person who had been taking care of those duties is no longer in the position.
- Two UWEC students are fulfilling internship requirements by writing press releases and articles for Erin.
- The Jeffers Road garden has being winterized (hoses stored, etc). The greenhouse will be set up at the South side community garden.
- CVTC is requesting scholarships for the 2017 horticulture program. We will donate two \$250 scholarships. That item will have to be added to the 2017 budget.

5. Education Committee Report – Nina Logan

- Larry Bennett will speak about Winter Feeding of Birds the third Tuesday of November. Door prizes will be bird-related items from Beaver Creek.
- The holiday potluck will be Tuesday, December 6th. The association will provide meat and drinks.

(November 2016 Board Meeting minutes cont.)

Elections will be held to fill vacancies on the Board of Directors.

Seminar presentation updates:

- Keynote speaker Tim Johnson from Seed Savers Exchange - Growing Heirlooms
- Nancy Spak's daughter Christy - Bats
- Nancy Spak – Make and Take Workshop – limit of 25 participants
- Chad Zutter – Prairie flowers
- Winter Greenhouse staff – Small Ponds and Water Features
- Crystal Schmidt – Rare Plants
- Dan Zeri– Water Conservation – keeping our water supply clean and safe
- It had been suggested that information about the threat that jumping worms pose to our gardens should be made available at the seminar. Just how that topic will be addressed has yet to be determined.

Presentations for 2017:

- A January speaker is still TBD. Nina will contact Gertens Nursery.
- Suggested topic for end of February or March – Pruning Fruit Trees

6. Plant Sale update – Sue Mertens, Plant Sale Chairperson

- There is concern about the possibility of jumping worms being spread via our plant sale. The Sale Committee will develop guidelines for plant donations. It was suggested they consult with Ellen Terwilliger, who is organizing the Garden Club's Plant Sale.
- A request for more volunteers to help plan the sale will be placed in the December newsletter.

7. Digger Award – The Digger Award will be presented to Gary Mathis at the December 6th Potluck.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40PM. Motion by Deb Spickler; seconded by Mary Jane Griffin.

The next board meeting is Thursday, December 8th at 6:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Pelzl, Secretary

