

**NORTH COUNTRY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS
MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 24, 2020**

Attendees: Roseann Meixelsperger, Sandy Niewinski, Donna Amidon, Jill Fries, Linda Anderson, Vicki Gee-Treft, Janet Mangold, Sue Reinardy, Barb Boatman, Deb Studley, Lorraine Toman and Kevin Schoessow.

Secretary Report: The minutes of the August 27, 2020 meeting were approved by Sue R. and seconded by Donna A.

Treasurer's Report: Barb B. reported a bank balance of \$1,439.52 with one outstanding bill for the display garden porta-potty. The treasurer's report was approved as given.

MGV Training: Sue R. reported on programs that were presented through the website, blogs and Zoom. Programs included information on the kids' garden, Mini-Master Gardener videos, composting, monarch butterflies, cut flower arrangements, our annual Twilight Garden Tour which included a tour of the gardens and Zoom from three UW authorities on beets, hazelnuts and seed to kitchen gardening.

Online Hours Reporting: Volunteer hours are to be reported electronically by December 31, 2020 by accessing <https://wimastergardener.org/report-your-hours>. This year only 10 CE hours are required.

Garden Harvesting and Maintenance: Fall clean-up is scheduled for Tuesday, October 6th from 10:00 a.m. to noon. If a second date is needed, Sandy Niewinski will send out another request. Roseann brought up the issue of planting cover crops. Kevin reported that Russ had previously purchased a cover crop mix which could be used. These suggestions will be discussed at the next meeting October 22nd which will be a planning meeting.

Twilight Garden Tour: Donna A. reviewed the eleven evaluations that were submitted. One-third of the respondents had never visited the in-person Twilight Garden Tour. 73% heard about this year's TGT from another MGV. Others were informed through the radio, newspaper or website. Roseann received a call from the outgoing president of the Grant County MGV who wanted more information on how we did the virtual tour to help them incorporate it into their plans for next year.

WIMGA: Roseann requested a \$400 grant from WIMGA for a sensory garden. We will be notified by November 15th if our request is approved. Janet Mangold reported on the on-going efforts by Mike Maddox and Amy Freidig to align WIMGA with the University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension. Memorandums of Understanding (MOU's) will need to be completed by all local associations with a need to update by-laws in order for each association to be recognized as a legal entity by the end of 2021. Sue R. stated that our organization has a EIN# for tax purposes with the IRS and we are recognized by the Wisconsin Master Gardener Association. Kevin stated that we are in a good legal position to comply with all the new requirements.

Horticulture Inquiries: Linda Anderson reported on her efforts to answer horticulture questions from the public that come through the Extension Office in Spooner. She and Kevin both stated that there is a great need for certified arborists in our area. Many of the callers do not have internet access so she does her best to get printed information sent out to them in the mail. Many callers just want someone to talk to about gardening and their outside environment. Janet would like more volunteers to help with taking horticulture inquiries. Janet M. reminded us that we need to refer people to UW-Extension in Madison for questions we can't answer. Linda has been documenting all calls and passing on a report to Kevin.

Volunteer Opportunities: Sandy N. will try to recruit more people to answer horticulture calls.

Officer Elections: Roseann reported that Lynn Ford recently resigned from the association which includes her running for Secretary. Deb Studley has agreed to fill in for secretary for the two-year term or until someone else volunteers for the position. The slate of officers presented includes:

President:

- Roseann Meixelsperger (another one-year term) October 2020 – September 2021

Vice President:

- Pam Davies (one-year term) October 2020 – September 2021

Treasurer:

- Barb Boatman (completing vacancy to September 2021)

Secretary:

- Deb Studley (two year term October 2020 – September 2022 or until filled by another volunteer)

Board Members:

- Sandy Niewinski (continuing two-year term to 2021),
- Jessie Crane and Jill Fries (two-year terms October 2020 – September 2022)

Donna A. moved to accept the slate of officers as presented. Seconded by Vicki G-T. Motion approved.

Miscellaneous:

- Roseann determined that the Spooner Elementary School garden raised enough funds to build new raised beds. This school garden was initially started with help from the NCMGV in 2008 and is now able to function with teachers, students and assistance from families.
- Roseann expressed the need to set up a plant sale committee with input from Russ to document the tasks and timeline necessary to offer a plant sale in spring 2021.
- Roseann proposed purchasing two \$100 VISA cards for our intern, Lily, and one for Lorraine. A motion was made by Linda A. and seconded to allow Barb B. to go ahead with the purchase. Motion carried.
- Kevin will be on *Badger Talks Live* through the Spooner Ag. Station Facebook page on Tuesday, September 29th at noon.

The next meeting will be at 5:30 p.m., October 22, 2020, on Zoom. The meeting will devoted to planning for 2021.

Respectfully submitted,



Deb Studley
Secretary