

## **Boone County Master Gardeners Meeting Minutes – November 16, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 9:30AM by President Butch Kidd. Due to an increase in COVID-19 cases, this meeting was held virtually via Zoom. 35 people participated. Curt gave a short tutorial about using Zoom.

**Secretary's Report:** Barb Burkhardt. The September meeting's minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jane Bewley. The balance at the September's meeting was \$1665.61. There were no expenses or income so the balance as of November 16, 2020 is \$1665.61. There is a \$200 credit for the cancelled bus trip that will be applied to the next overnight trip.

All dues for 2021 (\$15) should be sent to Jane Bewley at 4223 Honeysuckle Lane Zionsville, IN 46077. Make checks payable to Boone County Master Gardeners.

**Vice President's Report: Lynn Kenyon** She is not interested in serving next year as an officer but is willing to chair Gardenfest.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Hospitality:** Fran Lind n/a

**Newsletter and Website;** Holly Catron Deadline for next newsletter is Dec 31, 2020. If anyone has any photos, please submit them to her for the newsletter and website. Lana Lytle asked if Holly needs any help with the website as she would be interested in helping. She also asked if a link to the Purdue Master Gardener Manage report page <https://www.purdue.edu/mg-volunteer/login.php> could be added to the website.

**Fairground Gardens:** Lydia McNamara She still needs to know who is on the Fairground garden committee. There are some thistles that need to be removed.

**Community Gardens:** Holly Catron reported that the Youth Learning Garden received a \$3,000 grant from MIBOR to build a patio. It is almost complete. They also had an REMC grant to redo the paths in the garden.

Amelia Braga reported that the Lebanon Church of Christ Community Garden produced 1200 lbs of vegetables and there are still some Brussel sprouts to pick. She felt this year was particularly successful as they planted only 10% of the space that was previously planted but harvested over 8x more produce, because the gardens were more manageable in size. The gardens have been prepared for winter by covering them with donated straw and leaves. They are preparing a list of vegetable seeds for next year that will be funded from Barb Burkhardt's Thrivent grant remainder. They are requesting funds for next year. See New Business.

Lana Lytle reported that they are applying for an REMC grant to put a greenhouse on the Lebanon Church of Christ site. The grant is due December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Holly Catron mentioned that this year over 3800 lbs. of produce were donated from all the Boone County Community Gardens. The produce went to The Caring Center, Mental Health America Boone Co Summer Camp, Lebanon Boys & Girls Club, Stokes Food Pantry, Shalom House, Teen Challenge, Freedom Church Mobile Pantry and Lebanon Little Pantry

**Garden Fest:** Lynn Catron, Holly Catron – n/a

**Grant Committee:** Sharon Grebe Grant Applications are due November 30<sup>th</sup>. She has publicized our grants in the Lebanon Reporter as well as the Boone County Schools. Presently we have 2 applications submitted- one from the Community Gardens and another one from Boone Meadows school. Awarding of the grants will be at the January meeting.

**4H Fair Booth -** n/a

**Overnight Bus Trip:** Peggy Houchens and Cheryl Gobeyn -n/a

**Day Trips:** Linda Trips She has several good ideas for 2021 and hopefully we can go in the future.

**Nominating Committee:** see New Business

### Old Business:

1. Report on Indiana Native Plant Society Grant - Mary Wagner Shields - Unfortunately we did not get the grant. However, Mary has made a list of native plants that attract specific pollinators to the vegetable gardens. She is going to give this list with Curt to email all the Master Gardeners who might have these plants or seed and can share with the Production garden.

### New Business:

1. Increase in Dues – Butch Kidd We did not get any income from Garden Fest in 2020 because of COVID and since most of the money we collect goes to grants, he is proposing that we raise dues to \$15. It was moved, seconded (Kidd/Brown) and approved to increase dues to \$15 per person.
2. Need to elect officers for next year - Butch Kidd According to our bylaws officers are to serve for 1 year terms. The positions of President and Vice-President are open. Butch is requesting that anyone wishing to serve in either of these positions should contact him. He is willing to serve until his replacement is elected.
3. Funding request for Lebanon Church of Christ Community Gardens - Amelia Braga  
This group of Master Gardeners is requesting \$1000 for the purposes of purchasing a 50/50 soil-compost mixture from Green Cycle to amend the present and new beds at the garden. They estimate this will buy 30 cu yds pending discounts and donations from Green Cycle. There was some discussion as to whether they should just buy compost. Curt indicated that he has about 3-4 truckloads of top soil that they can have and some Master Gardeners offered their trucks for hauling. It was also suggested that they need some scout or school groups to shovel out the soil once received at the garden.

It was moved, seconded (Lytle/Petit) and approved to provide the \$1000 needed to purchase the soil/compost or compost mixture.

It was asked if individual Master Gardeners could make a private donation to the Community Gardens. Checks should be written and sent to the Caring Center (the fiscal non-profit agent for the Community Gardens) 1230 Ransdell Ct. Lebanon, IN 46052 with the memo line indicating Boone County Community Gardens. Please also send an email to Holly Catron [catronh@purdue.edu](mailto:catronh@purdue.edu) so she can track the funds.

### Curt's Report:

1. Present Master Gardener class – There are 2 more sessions to go and then the final. He indicated that 3 class members (Joan Nicolet, Joann Ostrognai and Michelle Threlkeld) were participating at this Zoom meeting and each introduced themselves.
2. New Badges: Susan Kovach – Bronze master Gardener  
Kelly Petit – Advanced Master Gardener  
Amelia Braga – Bronze Master Gardener
3. Curt complimented this group for the increase in volunteer hours this year. Most of the Master Gardener groups in the state have experienced a decline in hours due to COVID. Our group has surpassed our last year's total hours due to the Community Gardens and the Rainscaping group.
4. Curt has been in conversation with Michael Susong, Assistant Superintendent of Stormwater, about offering a 2 day Rainscaping class and planting a rain garden in Zionsville.
5. Office Christmas Party - need about 4 people this Friday, November 20 to man the phones from 11am -2pm during the staff Christmas Party. Email Curt if you can volunteer.
6. Curt presented today's program about COVID guidelines and introduced the State Department of Health's website. <https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/>

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15am. Next meeting is January 25, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barb Burkhardt