

Boone County Master Gardener Meeting Minutes – July 19, 2021

The meeting was called to order by President Butch Kidd at 9:30am at the Shelter House at Lebanon Church of Christ 1204 Indianapolis Ave, Lebanon. There were 34 people in attendance.

Secretary's Report - Barb Burkhardt There were no corrections to the May 17, 2021 minutes. It was moved/seconded (Michael/Zore) and approved to accept the May 17, 2021 minutes.

Treasurer's Report – Jane Bewley Balance as of last meeting was \$895.61. Additional 2021 dues income was \$45. There were no expenses. The resulting balance as of 7/19/2021 is \$940.61.

Vice-President - no report

Committee Reports

Hospitality - Fran Lind – N/A

Newsletter - Holly Catron - Deadline for next newsletter is August 31, 2021

Fairground gardens - Lydia McNamara She reported that there were about 10 people who met recently to weed and mulch the fairgrounds garden in preparation for the 4-H fair.

Community Gardens – Susan Kovach

Changes since last meeting in May:

- Group has finished planting seedlings and seeds in all beds. When space opens up, adding more seedlings. Dorothy Pulfer has started cabbage seedlings for fall harvest. Beds are producing well this year.
- Currently in harvest phase. They have presently picked 312 lbs. of produce.
- The Greenhouse – Lana Lytle and Dorothy spearheaded a grant for the greenhouse and it is erected with some interior work still remaining. Flooring and shelving need to be installed.
- Native plants installed on Row 19. Funding also from a grant.
- Decided to fence area 20 (melon patch with pumpkins and 3 sister mounds) and rows 15 and 16 (winter squash) to prevent destruction from 4 legged thieves.
- Trying to get composting area up and running and clean up back corner of garden. Area contains 3 bins to hold both brown and green materials to feed into the tumblers. Currently talking to a Boy Scout about a possible Eagle project in that area.
- Barrel Project - 8 metal barrels were donated to the garden for garden art project. Have reached out to Mentors Partnership of Boone County and they plan to schedule a day for their Mentor/Mentee partners to come and decorate barrels, fill them with soil and flowers to be placed around the garden.
- Would welcome more volunteers. Harvesting involves picking, cleaning, weighing, sorting, recording and packaging all produce before it gets delivered to local agencies for distribution. They work on Tuesdays and Fridays starting at 8:30-9am.

Amelia Braga reported on their booth at the Lebanon Farmers Market in June. They passed out information about Community Gardens, Master Gardeners Rainscaping workshops and Master Gardeners Intern course to start in August. Also passed out information about companion planting. They had a lot of interested people who visited their booth. They realized that more could have been done, such as more frequent appearances at the Farmers Market, taking contact information from visitors and then doing follow-ups with them to increase communication about Master Gardener events.

Gardenfest – Gardenfest is scheduled for April 2, 2022.

Grant Committee- Lana Lytle had some questions from Cheryl Pleak Copeland. Sharon Grebe, previous chair, answered most of the questions. When does application process start? - September. How much money is available for grants for 2021? To be determined at September meeting. In the past \$1000 was budgeted but the treasury presently doesn't have that much money. How much is typically given per grant? \$250. Who is to receive on-line applications? Cheryl Pleak Copeland. Barb Burkhardt will communicate with Holly Catron about chair change and past difficulty in accessing the on-line application. Sharon also indicated that when she sent the publicity flyer, she also included a grant application.

Website – Holly Catron needs pictures and stories of things we do in the community for the website.

4H Fair Booth – Amelia Braga and Lana Lytle have a meeting scheduled with DNR to discuss selling seeds and plants from the community garden.

Overnight Bus Trip – Peggy Houchens – Postponed to 2022. Peggy asked about everyone's comfort level riding on a bus. Consensus was many felt OK for an overnight bus trip.

Day Trips - Linda Trips 6 people attended the trip to Willowfield Lavender Farm in Mooresville. She will have another day trip planned to be announced at the September meeting. Two locations were suggested: Kankakee Sands and the meadow garden at Newfields.

Old Business:

Nominating Committee - Holly Catron, Butch Kidd, Jane Bewley, Linda Trips, Colleen Hendrickson and Barb Burkhardt. They presented the slate for 2022 officers:

President – Karen Hogan Vice- President - Valerie Jasper
Secretary – Joan Nicolet Treasurer - Lesley Cain

At the next meeting any other nominations from the group will be entertained with voting at the November meeting.

New Business:

Lydia McNamara indicated that she was stepping down as chair of the Fairground garden weeding group. Butch asked for a volunteer to replace her.

Kathy Ruffato indicated to Curt that she was unable to attend Monday meetings and wondered if there was a way to record the meetings and the education programs for later viewing. Curt indicated that it could be done at the Fairgrounds building and we will try this at the September meeting. Holly will provide the Zoom link with the meeting notification.

Curt's Report:

The 2-day Rainscaping class on August 18-19 is cancelled as only 2 signed up and we need 15 to hold the class. Therefore, the creation of a rain garden at the Fairgrounds will not take place. Jack, the maintenance person, would like to see more frequent weeding of the Master Garden fairgrounds garden. Curt suggested what seemed to work in the past was 2 people coming each week to work on the garden.

Boone County Master Gardeners are 6th in the state for volunteer hours. He has received many complimentary reports about the work done by Sara Michael, Amelia Braga and Lesley Cain.

Lebanon Kiwanis wants guest speakers for their meetings. Presentation should be 15-20 minutes on a topic of their choice.

State Fair Master Gardener booth – August 18th from 10am – 4 pm. Need volunteers to work 2 hours shifts.
10am- noon- Karen Hogan, Fran Lind
Noon – 2 pm - Kelly Petit and Rita Evans
2-4 pm - Michelle Threlkeld

4-H is looking for 2 people to be co-leaders for a vegetable gardening 4-H project. It would involve 2-3 workshops and being present at the Fair judging. Amelia Braga and Melinda Zore volunteered.

August 16th is an Extension office staff meeting. There is a need for 2 people to man the office during the lunch hour. Let Curt know if you can volunteer.

A Woodlands Management Workshop on Invasive Species will be held at the Fairgrounds Annex on Thursday, July 21 from 9-11:30am. Bring bug spray.

Badges: Lori Voorhis – Advanced Master Gardener
Joan Nicolet - Master Gardener
Sandy Dailey - Bronze
Dorothy Pulfer – Bronze

Educational Opportunities: see Garden Gate Newsletter

Volunteer Opportunities: see above

It was moved/ seconded (Kidd/ McNamara) and approved to adjourn the meeting at 10:20am.

Education Program - Mary Wagner-Shields presented on companion planting in a vegetable garden.

Next meeting will be on September 20, 2021 at Fairgrounds Building. Arrive at 9am and meeting starts at 9:30am.

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Burkhardt