

**Master Gardener Association of Bergen County  
Board Meeting Minutes 6 August 2024**

Zoom Meeting

<https://rutgers.zoom.us/j/91947659204?pwd=I9Yvw5qkbGW9EG1qPhyKaU8bv2nACx.1>

**5:30 PM - Roll Call**

**5:32 PM - Approval of Minutes**

*Recording Secretary distributed the June minutes electronically on 23 July, 2024.*

There were no correction and minutes were approved as distributed.

**5:35 PM - Officer Reports**

*Please submit your report via email to the Recording Secretary and President*

- President - Theresa Schneider - Present,
  - Conversation with Mercer County MG
  - RMGANJ transforming into the RMG Annual Conference and Recognition Committee (AC&R)
  - Incoming Site Coordinator Liaison, Wendy Sowa-Maldarelli (Class of 2024 intern) on track to graduate Sep/Oct 2024
- Vice President – Lisa Yoler - Present, no report
- Treasurer – Jean Friedman - Present, provided verbal report
- Recording Secretary - Keith Mazanec - not present
- Corresponding Secretary - Miriam Taub - Present, submitted electronic report on 5 August 2024
  - Condolence card sent to Janet Schulz - son

**5:45 PM - Committee Reports**

- Community Outreach Liaison– Arnie Friedman - Present
  - Sub Committees
    - Speaker’s Bureau Chair - Arnie Friedman - Present
      - Receiving requests for speakers for Fall 2024
    - Publicity Chair: Maria Bushman - Present
      - Not getting a lot of feedback from social media platforms
- Hospitality – Chris Kozar - Present - nothing to report
- Membership - Janet Stofkoper - Present - 105 members to date; 1 new renewal this summer (Class of 2009)
- Newsletter - Miriam Taub
  - Difficulty getting site coordinators to respond to queries
- Programs - Donna Dorgan - not present
- Volunteer Records – Suzanne Danzig - Present
  - Submitted electronic report on 6 August 2024

- Website - Joseph Cooper & Miriam Taub - Joseph- present
  - Waiting on updates by web designer
- RMGANJ Delegate – Herb Arbeiter - Present
  - Rutgers MG T shirts available via the RMG online store
  - RMGANJ changing to the Awards /Recognition Committee
- Rutgers Cooperative Extension Liaison - Karen Riede (non-voting) - Present
  - Submitted electronic report on 3 August 2024
  - Highlighted award recognition for online MG course
  - Announced retirement as Horticultural Assistant for RCE- Bergen County; last day Sep 27th (7 years service to the county and MGs)
- MG Class Liaison (non-voting)
  - Primary liaison - Cesar Coy - Present
    - Students working on their group projects
  - Alternate- Alison Bloomfield - not present

#### **6:05 - Unfinished Business**

- No unfinished business from last Board meeting (June 2024)

#### **6:05 - New Business**

- Website updates: 2024 Budget approved for \$1K website update expenses; ad hoc committee recommended changes exceed the \$1K.
  - Miriam Taub- Motion to increase website budget for 2024 from \$1K to \$1.5K. Motion seconded and discussed.
  - Motion adopted
- Awards Committee
  - Motion and seconded to stand up an ad hoc awards/recognition committee in preparation for selecting MGs/sites for state recognition this fall (pending confirmation from state that they are going forward with recognition ceremony)
  - Motion adopted

#### **6:20: Discussion**

- Bergen County Rowing Center at Riverside County Park, Lyndhurst as new volunteer site (see Bylaws Appendix, page 5). Presently a Special Project approved by Joel Flagler
  - Discussion points:
    - Garden/ground maintenance vs education and concern that hours would count
    - Is there enough work to keeps folks busy
    - Will there be a site coordinator (Karen Riede will supervise at the site up until the regatta - 13 Oct 2024)

- If county reached out to MGs for support - good idea to support
- Are MGs interested in going to Lyndhurst site; is it sustainable
- Possible Blast opportunity
- Next steps:
  - Karen Riede and Theresa Schneider to conduct site visit and report back to board (per Bylaws)
- Update about RMGANJ status from State Leader, Consumer Horticulture and Master Gardener Programs
- Concern for “watering down” leadership positions
  - Bylaws specify requirements to hold officer and committee chair positions, but what are requirements for other roles such as committee member or subcommittee chair?
  - Tee up this as a topic for further discussion / addition to Bylaws
- What can we count as a volunteer hour? Topic for future discussion and clarification by Rutgers.

**Adjourned at 6:45**