

**Berkeley Jefferson Extension Master Gardener Association
Board Meeting - July 19, 2021**

Present: Mary Beth Bennett, Rick Lowman, Becky Guthrie, Art Robison, Joyce Robison, Jean Marie King, Emily Walker, Mary Palmer, Audra Weisenberger, and Sharon Coombes Absent: Emily Morrow.

Meeting was held at the Ranson Community Garden on Monday, 7/19/2021, and began at 9:30AM
Rick had Becky to chair the meeting pending resolution of items in new business.

Secretary's Report for Board Meeting held on 6/21/2021. Minutes were accepted as presented.

Treasurer's Report. Art reported a current bank balance of \$16,526.86. Art reported that we are in good financial shape.

We would still like to have audit before Annual Meeting as we have had a change in Treasurer.
Mary Beth has the audit form.

Old Business

Gardens-To-Go Program - Nothing to report at this time.

WVU Covid Guidelines: Mary Beth reported that as of May 20th WVU has again revised the Covid Guidelines and dropped all regulations except if an event is held indoors, unvaccinated individuals must wear a mask.

Fairs can be full blown this year and many other events are returning. Berkeley County Youth Fair is scheduled from 7/31-8/7/2021 at the Berkeley County Fair Grounds. Signs will be posted to remind attendees to wash their hands.

Picnic: BJEMG's Annual Picnic was held Friday, June 25th. Attendees brought their own food and enjoyed the time together

Tomato Fest: It was decided that we would not hold a live community event this year due to continuing concerns over covid. Rick had discussed with Mary Beth about have a member tasting contest like was held in 2020. Tomatoes would be dropped off at the extension office on Aug 16th or 17th with the tasting contest on the 18th. Extension staff and possible invited guests would do the tasting and award prizes. Final plans are being worked out with the extension office.

Judicial Rain Garden Chat: Mary reported that this will be a MG member event to be held on August 14th. It is not open to the public. There will be at least 1 hour of continuing education presented Cecily will send out announcement for signups. One speaker will be Joette Borzik, representing Monarch Alliance; another speaker will be a native plant specialist. Mary will present the historical information about the Judicial Rain Garden and our commitment to maintain this garden.

Volunteers will be needed at this event to help set up a canopy at table. Attendees will need to bring their own chairs.

Hillbrook Tour: This tour is scheduled for today at 1:30pm. Only 7 members signed up.

Rita's Meadow Tour: Will be held on September 25th from 10AM-11:30AM. Attendees will be welcome to enjoy Rita's field until 12Noon. Cecily will be sending out a notice.

Ranson Community Garden Tour: Will be held on October 2nd at 12:30pm. Cecily will be sending out a notice.

BJEMGA Annual Meeting: Scheduled for October 21st at 7PM. Rick has not heard back from Hospice to confirm the date and time. Sharon will follow up with Crystal Cummings at the Hospice.

BJEMGA Fall Potluck: Scheduled for November 13th at 12Noon. Rick has not heard back from Hospice to confirm the date and time. Sharon will follow up with Crystal Cummings at the Hospice.

Invitations will be sent out to the members as in past years. Sharon will request volunteers to assist with the planning of the luncheon.

Jefferson County State Representative: Mira will be reminded to add Audra to the Zoom meeting schedule for August 9th. Becky is still on Mira's list serve. A schedule for the quarterly meetings 2021-2022 has been provided to Audra.

Committee Chairs: Positions still open for Public Education, Plant Sale/Garden Fest, and Tomato Fest.

Committee Reports

Publicity: Emily Walker and Cathy Meyers distributed class information to different locations around the county. Emily Morrow made a recruitment video for face book. Emily commented that we should make sure that Committee Chairs and a discussion of the responsibilities are included in the classes so that interns will have a greater opportunity to understand their volunteer opportunities.

Intern Training: Everything set to proceed. We have 12 possible students. First class is Monday, August 9th. Melanie has all details confirmed with Hospice

Member Services - Audra advised that we have lost quite a few from the 2019 Class due to job changes and moving, but she does not have the information on the 2020 Class yet as Cecily is currently checking the data to prepare a list although the 2020 Class has until November to submit their hours. Several members from the 2020 Class have already fulfilled their hours.

Continuing Education: Information covered above.

Public Education: Becky will make a presentation on "Shade Gardening" to the Woods Garden Club on 7/21 at 1:30pm. Handouts have been prepared and will be handed out at the presentation. Sharon will assist with the presentation.

Judicial Rain Garden: Information covered above.

State Conference Committee: At this time, state is working on resolving the issues relating to the resignation of the Treasurer. Next quarterly meeting is scheduled for Saturday, August 9th, via Zoom.

New Business

Rick's Surgery: Currently scheduled for August 11.

Seed Saving: Rick asked if anyone would like to head up presentation on seed saving in late September or early October. This activity could give continuing education credits as well as volunteer hours to our members. No one on the board volunteered to head up this project at this time. Emily Morrow has handled the seed distribution at the Charlestown Library. Teresa Stoger conducted the virtual class. Since Boltz is still not back in business, we will probably not be able to obtain seeds as we have in the past. Rick mentioned that January is International Seed Swapping Month and a member is planned for that time. Becky will try to recruit a presenter. Rick recommended that Becky contact Bethel to see if she would be willing to provide the seed saving talk.

Berkeley County Fair: Will be held this year as in the past. Cathy Meyers offered to staff the table so MGs would have presence at the fair. Table will be indoors and she would like to have literature and recruitment information to distribute. She will be looking for volunteers to take different shifts. Cecily will send out a notice to members.

Extension Office Location: Mary Beth Bennett advised us that she had been notified that the county is looking for office space. She does not know what locations may be available but they may be moving the MG and 4H offices to a different location in the near future.

Nominating Committee - Committee members are Sharon, Emily Walker and Tina. An election slate must be sent out to membership 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting which is schedule for October 21st.

Rick advised that the process involves:

1. Contacting the current officer and, if eligible, ask if they want to run for a second term.
2. Sending out a notice to all members to see if anyone is interested in running for any of the positions
3. Preparing the slate to be presented to the membership.

Scholarship for Shepherd College: Rick would like to see scholarship for Shepherd College increased from \$500 to \$1,000, for Fall semester 2021/Spring semester 2022. Blue Ridge is working with Shepherd to move their 2- year program into the 4-year program and Shepherd. Motion was made and passed to increase the scholarship funds to \$1000 per year for Shepherd College.

President of BJEMGA: Rick had submitted a resignation as President but the Board made a motion to request that he remain as President. Motion was passed and Rick agreed to remain as President through his term. Becky offered to take on some additional responsibilities as Rick has upcoming medical concerns.

Special Concern: Rick advised that he was concerned that the activities of BJEMGA should be governed by the Board. He will be meeting with Emily Morrow, Jefferson County Extension Agent, and Mary Beth Bennett, Berkeley County Extension Agent and BJEMG Program Advisor, to discuss some of his concerns about past events and planned events.

Next meeting is scheduled for August 16th at 9:30AM as a Zoom Meeting.

Motion was made and passed to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:55am.