

Volunteer Master Gardeners of Union County

October 28, 2020

Zoom Meeting

**Attendance:** Julie Jones, Laurie Lowe, Sara Parker, Chris Burnard, Beth Johnson, Dilu Juvarkar, Audrey Kise, Karen Long, Bryan Bumgardner, Bill Paloney, Donna Gehring, Donna Maley, Virginia McCreary, Eunice Hornsby, John Walkup, Jon Weiss, Kay Covert, Kim Gordon, Joan Griffin, Mary Sambilene-Merriman, Kay Nichols, Aleshia Miller, Dixie Bowen, Scheral Greider, Nancy Munson, Rebecca Honaker, Sue Timmons, Penny Rushmore, Robert Anderton, Natalie Landon, Betsy Hauk,

**Presentation:** Erik Draper presented on Major Garden Vegetable Disease and Diagnosis – reviewed bacterial and fungal diseases as well as insect infestations.

- Secretaries Report was submitted by Beth Johnson – Approved & Accepted as written.
- Treasurer Report by Donna Maley – limited activity. reminder all expenses need prior approval send to Donna Maley budget was Accepted & Approved.

**Coordinators Report:**

- Conference Call with OSU -
- Pam Bennett is applying for a blanket exemption for 2021 which includes following guidelines and the demonstration gardens and possible garden tour.
- Survey from Pam Bennett regarding comfort level in volunteering all were encouraged to respond,
- 10 continuing education hours are required and 20 volunteer hours COVID 19. Please get hours submitted Do not worry about volunteer hours this year. Excessive Continuing education hours can be apples towards volunteer hours using Covid -19 explanation. Reminder to complete your time in VMS by December 31,2020.
- VMS system will be going away next year. There will be a data dump from our current VMS system into the new system. The new system is said to be user friendly.
- Hort Lunch and Learn will restart in January 2021 and continue through the winter. There was some corruption to the previous recordings, and they are not longer available. Schedule for future offerings are listed below.
  - Hort Lunch and Learn Jan 7 and Jan 21; February 4 and 18, Time 12- 1PM
  - Hort Happy Hour will be Jan 13 and 27; February 10 and 24<sup>th</sup> Time 4-5 PM.
- Record # of produce donations to Chris Burnard. 701 # of fresh produce donated

**Nominating Committee:**

- Bryan Bumgardner,
- Kay Nichols,
- Donna Gehring

Presented the following as running for open offices running unopposed and was voted by membership to be the new executive committee beginning January 1, 2021.

Motion to move these candidates into offices at the end of this term presented by Donna Gehring, second by Karen Long no opposed and with all in favor the motion carried.

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Sara Parker as President to begin this term commencing January 1, 2021 and replacing Julie Jones current President through December 31, 2020.

Nancy Munson as Vice President to begin term commencing January 1, 2021 and replacing Sara Parker current Vice President through December 31, 2020.

Rebecca Honaker as Secretary commencing January 1, 2021 and replacing Beth Johnson current Secretary through December 31, 2020.

Donna Maley will return for her second year to complete her term as Treasurer.

Julie Jones presented on behalf of the Executive Committee the need to move the Volunteer Master gardeners into either a 501C 3 or under the Umbrella of the OSU extension office. The executive Committee took a vote at the executive committee on October 21 and the decision was to move to be under the umbrella of the OSU Extension

Much research has been done.

Education from Pam Bennett on the need to move to an organized structure for tax purposes, liability, and operations.

Research has been done throughout the 2020 year. Information collected from other groups that were under the umbrellas of OSU extension offices and of those who went the 501C3 route.

Under OSU

- Our money will be managed by the extension secretary and will be listed as our funds. Access will be available however, planning is key. Approval must be obtained for expenses from VMG officers and the turnaround time could be as early as a week. Once again, planning is key. Prior approval is required.
- Administrative burden would be less as we could adopt the practices of the extension office. More time can be spent with activities than doing the administrative work.
- Scholarship would still be able to occur.

As a 501C3

- We would need to file with the Attorney General with the state each year and there are funds required to do so
- We would need an attorney to help with administrative duties. An accountant to help file taxes.
- Administratively we would need to have more policies in place to manage the practices of our volunteer activities.

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- The terms of offices are changed every other year and it takes time to create policies educate on them and monitor compliance.

VMG on teams did voice concerns on money raised for the organization and how that will and can be accessed. It was explained petty cash would be available. Again, prior approval for expenses needed to happen for refunds. VMG would work with the extension secretary to have this. The secretary is used to this process with other clubs such as 4-H having separate budgets to work with.

Our next meeting is November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 where we will be doing a Master Gardener minute. We will meet one week early due to the Thanksgiving Holiday