

## MGAPC General Meeting Minutes - Tuesday January 23, 2024

*Our Lady of Consolation Ministry Center - 1799 Hamburg Tpke, Wayne NJ 07470*

7:00 PM Gathering and Sign In

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Bert Sebastia at 7:05pm and then she led the group in the Pledge of allegiance.

**Continuing Education:** Bert Sebastian introduced guest speaker Marc Gussen, Botanist from the Closter Nature Center to speak on Tropism, a plant's response to an external stimulant. He presented a slideshow describing phototropism, photoperiodism, gravitropism, hydrotropism, thigmotropism, heliotropism, and chemotropism. He answered questions and shared thoughts on mutualistic symbiosis, environmental changes and the natural forest seed bank.

**Recess:** Short Recess at 8:16pm

### 8:25 PM Meeting minutes

#### Reports

##### Treasurer Report

Jayne Ross reported the total funds are approx \$14,000, \$1,000 of which is in savings at Lakeland Bank. There is about \$100 in outstanding checks.

She reminded the group that the annual Plant Sale is approaching and asked Michele Savvides to chair the committee.

##### Plant Sale (Part 1)

Michele responded Yes and mentioned creating a survey to see what changes members would like for this year's sale. She also mentioned the idea of group field trips, plant swaps, and plant research projects. Michele requested input on creating new committees and leadership.

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### Program Report

Bert introduced Julia Piermatteo, the new master gardener coordinator. Julia welcomed members to introduce themselves tonight or by email. She also requested members email the board with new project ideas.

She is working with Jen from FCHS to create vegetable gardens at 5 schools in Patterson, NJ. Each school was granted \$2,500 and they are currently visiting and reviewing each school's ideal project scope with the existing light and space conditions. The grants were given specifically for edible gardens.

Members shared questions and personal experiences working in Patterson schools. Barbara Shapiro shared about her experience with school summer programming. Linda Franco asked how they were going to use the food and Julia used School 15 as an example of using vegetables in bilingual education.

### **Project Leaders:**

#### Laurelwood Arboretum

Lourdes Osorio mentioned the upcoming Sound Bathing event is sold out.

There will be a free concert on February 18th.

Lourdes invited Katie McEwan to share information on the upcoming Earth Day event. Katie reported the event will be on Arbor Day (April 26th, 2024) and the theme is "Plant vs Plastics." Wayne Hills Green club has potted trees and there will be crafts for kids.

Katie asked for volunteers and suggestions for the MGAPC table. For example, the Wayne Environment Commission had a display on invasive plants last year.

Monica suggested the table have an educational display on composting.

Lourdes requested members join the Laurelwood email list.

#### Plant Sale (Part 2)

Michele reported the committee is considering changing the date this year.

The group discussed the pros and cons of changing the date. Kathy Sauerborn shared the sentiment that the plant sale is a unifying event. The sale is traditionally held the 3rd weekend of May, the weekend after the Laurelwood and Skyland's sales. Skip Bartlett grows tomato plants timed for Mother's Day. Members are encouraged to raise and donate plants for the sale; it could be difficult to have plants ready before the frost date. Discussion continued: Perennials bring in more money compared to annual plants. We may want to have the sale over two days and members are hopeful for a table of unique plants. Peter Tomasi, who is on the Sale Committee, thanked the group for their thoughts/ideas and asked them to join the meetings.

Michele reported the first Plant Sale meeting will be over Zoom on 2/5/2024 at 7PM and a sign up sheet is available.

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### High Tunnel

Jayne Ross shared that Maureen Alex will not lead the project this year. Patty Lang added that Maureen stepped up when Joe D'Errico was no longer able to lead the project. Patty would like to meet with Julia to discuss the project and the educational component.

Rebecca Walter asked if any of last year's plant sale plants were stored at the high tunnel and if so are they available for the sale this year? Ice plants, coreopsis and lavender were discussed.

### Little Falls Public Library

Ann Kahwaty shared that the garden club is collecting seeds for a lending library. If members contact her she will pick up their donations.

Pete announced he will be giving a lecture on planting seeds. This is a free event on Monday, January 29th at 6:30PM - 8 Warren Street.

Bert asked the group if there were any questions or comments.

Julia requested everyone to go around the room and introduce themselves as a group.

**Adjournment 9:00 PM:** Bert reminded everyone to sign in and called to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jayne.