



**Otsego Master Gardener Meeting Minutes
Education Center, Cooperstown / Zoom Conferencing
November 9, 2022, 10 a.m.**

Facilitator: David Cox

Notetaker: Mary Ellen Calta

The meeting convened at 10:06 a.m. via Zoom and in person.

Attendees: Zoom – Madelyn Sanchez Taylor, Chris Burrington, Dianne Dirig, Susanna Membrino, Pati Grady, and Francine Stayter. In person – Peter Coleman, Carol Phelps, Darleen Fournier, Mary Ellen Crawford, Susan Jones, Ellen LaSalle, Mary Ellen Calta, and David Cox.

Old Business:

The minutes from the October 12, 2022, meeting were reviewed; motion to approve by Mary Ellen Crawford; seconded by Susan Jones. Motion approved.

WE GROW – What will be new for your 2023 gardening/growing season?

FRANCINE – germinate more plants in a hydroponic garden. Twenty-two seeds from her garden will be started and rooting herbs.

CAROL PHELPS – try to use compost and not add any fertilizer.

DARLEEN FOURNIER – moving to a new place and starting over.

CHRIS BURRINGTON – might try peppers again.

DIANNE DIRIG – want to do onions and orange beets.

SUSANNA MEMBRINO – will try asparagus.

PATI GRADY – eliminate Hostas – planting raised beds.

PETER COLEMAN – renew perennial beds around house.

ELLEN ALEX – moving raspberry bushes to a new area that is fenced.

SUSAN JONES – planning on putting in dwarf fruit trees.

MARY ELLEN CALTA – no more vegetables; growing cut flowers.

ELLEN LASALLE - more vegetables than 2022.

MARY ELLEN CRAWFORD – cutting back on planting in pots.

DAVID COX - finishing hardscape, perennial beds for (Pati's) Hostas.

Committee Reports:

Education & Outreach - Francine Stayter (report attached)

- Dates for Cornell: May 2023 will host a Horticultural Field Day for Master Gardeners Volunteers; we should plan to attend.

- June 1 – IPM conference at Cornell - plan to attend.
- September 2024, Cornell will host a Master Gardener Volunteer Conference. Cornell's theme for this year is Horticultural Therapy – We should consider this.
- Posting about the Vermont Master Gardener Conference: Dec 3, 2022, 9:30 to 3 p.m. Doug Tallamy is the keynote speaker; breakout sessions in the afternoon.
- November 28 will be a planning meeting for E&O.
- Floriculture Day at Cornell – presented by Carol Phelps and Pati Grady
 - Mostly for retail growers, very beneficial for plant sale ideas. Summer Rayne Oaks: Morning session was epic trend for bringing plants in doors. Incredible interest in house plants among the 20–40-year-olds. Since 2017, prices have exploded; add cuttings to seed swap; sell house plants at plant sale. Second session on greenhouse cleanup for weeds; did not apply to us. Third session and Fourth Session: Bacteria blight on geraniums, downy mildew on basil, impatiens, Boxwood blight in Western NY is still a problem.
- Growing our plants, seed saving: Petra Paige Mann – Fruition seeds; goal is to put all seed companies out of business – save seeds. Transition to climate change garden.
- Francine will check with Vermont to see if we can get reduced rate. Deadline for registration is November 19 for early registration and reduced rate.
- Seed Swap Timeline: David Cox and Ellen Alex
 - January 28 – St. Mary's Church is available for us.
 - Foothills Farmers' Market: David will ask Meg Kennedy if the seed swap can be at the Farmers' Market. (Update: Approved by FM Board)
 - Seeds are being donated from Unadilla per Dianne Dirig; most places have to throw seeds away.
 - Can we give away hybrid seeds if they are not F1? Yes, but they may not be true to color; may get a new variety.

Finance - Mary Ellen Crawford

- \$5,633 needs to be spent in 2022, or it is transferred to our reserves.
- 2023 planning for committee chairs and budgets for the coming year. (report attached)

Seed Starting/Plant Sale – Carol Phelps

- Seeds were ordered and some are here. Two more people want seed starting set-ups. Katherine McGuire and Emma Kirsch will be new seed starters. They will get shelving and lights. (report attached)
- Plant Sale Committee is looking for a co-chair to help Carol Phelps. Please consider this opportunity.

Grow with CCE: Pati Grady and Peter Coleman

- Phase 1 construction is on track – (report attached)

Grounds: Peter Coleman

- Will be busy this winter

- Meetings scheduled and the committee needs more members.
- Meetings will be by Zoom. The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 29 in Cooperstown at 10 a.m.
- In January through March, all meetings will be by Zoom, the second Tuesday of each month, 10 a.m.
- Planter bed designations will be determined at the December meeting.
- AAS seed starting will begin under Kim's direction; all plants leftover from plant sale will be used in the new gardens. Susanna will plan the rain garden plantings this winter.
- VVGT Trials: Order plants and seeds. Darleen Fournier will join that committee.

Committee Selections: Sign-up sheet passed around. Madelyn is trying to put them on Moodle.

Volunteer recognition will be held on Saturday, January 7, 2023. It will be a luncheon with both Schoharie and Otsego MGs at a place to be determined; excellent idea.

The next monthly meeting will be on Wednesday, December 14, 10 a.m. in Cooperstown; hybrid meeting but in-person attendance is encouraged. Bring finger food to share.

Volunteer Reporting Form: Most MGs say to keep as is. Use a paper version for those who do not want to report online. PLEASE REPORT YOUR HOURS!

MGV Trip to Philadelphia Flower Show - March 4-12, 2023. Anyone want to organize? Most feel it will be too long a day.

Program planning and development: E&O Committee sign up; may attend all meetings on Zoom. November 28 at 9:30 a.m. to begin planning for the year. Links to all Cornell Horticulture Updates will be shared for program ideas.

Spring Garden Day 2023: David spoke to Jeff O'Handley at OCCA. Yes, for Earth Fest, but date has to be confirmed. (Update: Confirmed for 4/15/23.)

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Submitted by Mary Ellen Calta