



**Otsego Master Gardener Meeting Minutes
Education Center, Cooperstown / Zoom Conferencing
January 11, 2023**

David Cox: Facilitator

Mary Ellen Calta: Notetaker

Meeting convened at 10:05 a.m. in-person and ZOOM

Attendance: (In-person) David Cox, Mary Ellen Calta, Pati Grady, Susan Jones, Ellen Alex, Peter Coleman, Dianne Dirig, and Kim L'Heureux. (Online) Madelyn Sanchez Taylor, Betsy Sywetz, Susanna Membrino, Chris Burrington, Darleen Fournier, Kathy Koch, Pati Grady, Mary-Ellen Crawford and Liz Callahan.

December Minutes reviewed and approved.

Committee Reports

- We Grow: VT Conference: Mary Ellen Calta reported that the all-day conference was attended by people from all over the country and was well done. Doug Tallamy spoke on The Homegrown National Park movement that is dedicated to transforming home gardens into a haven for pollinators using primarily native plants. The entire day was well done and informative.
- E&O meeting: Report attached.
- Seed Swap: Posters and cards were available to handout. Ellen Alex, David Cox, Kim L'Heureux, Chris Burrington, and Darleen Fournier will participate. Chris will bring soil blocking information; Darleen will do a seed viability exercise.
- Winter Sowing Workshop. Chris Burrington reported that seven people attended; took home two/three containers with seeds to start; very successful workshop.
- 'Choose Your Adventure' gardening workshop by Francine will be January 21 via zoom and in-person in Cooperstown. David and Darleen will be present to help. There are many seed catalogs in the office for this event.
- Connections at the Clark Sports Center: Mary Ellen Calta attend an opening event that was well attended. Thirty-two (new) people signed the CCE sign-in sheet and picked up the latest copy of Connections. Many questions were answered; soil samples will be brought to the office; and tick information was given out.

- Francine reported on Facebook numbers (see attached).
- Budget: Mary Ellen Crawford presented the budget. (See attached) All budgets approved for 2023.
- Joan Reilley: A memorial was discussed; cards have been sent and a decision will be made at a later date.
- Plant Sale (5/20): No updates. March 1 is the first meeting.
- Seed Starting – Kim L'Heureux noted the first hands-on workday is Jan 31, 10 a.m. in Cooperstown; in person only. AAS seeds have arrived and will decide what to plant and when starting various seeds.
- GROW W/CCE: Pati reported that fundraising will need to resume to begin to finish the project; construction on-hold now through the winter.
- Grounds: Peter Coleman reported that Epic will be adding more to the soil in the raised beds, so soil test will be put on hold. Discussion on what to add - peat moss, etc., to lighten the soil. Peter will work with Epic on this. Shed needs to be done before the water can go in. Signage will be worked on with a committee meeting February 19, 10 a.m. via Zoom and in person in Cooperstown.

Grounds will meet the 1st Tuesday of February and March via zoom using the same link as the first zoom meeting.

VVGT will have a zoom session on February 3 to introduce the new plants. Pick up for the seeds and plants will be May 4. A van will go with Schoharie MGs.

New Business

- Earth Day will be held April 15. OCCA meeting with Anna Rutenbeck will be today at 1:30; David to meet with her.
- Please sign up for committees.
- MGV training will come to an end March 13; MGs are being asked to serve as mentors for the new trainees. Orientation date for the new trainees TBD.

Meeting adjourned at noon.

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, February 8, 10 a.m. via Zoom and in person.

Submitted by Mary Ellen Calta