

Rutland County Masters Gardeners' Meeting - Minutes from March 20, 2023

The Rutland County Master Gardeners' meeting was held in person at the Godnick Center and via zoom. Jan Sherman started the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Steering team members present were: Jan Sherman, Jerri Hoffman, Patti Westburg, Deb Bieg, Rich Carlson, Al Jackson, Margery Salmon, and Carol Kluchinski.

Master gardeners' and interns present were: Ken Kolano, Shawn DuBois, Sandy Kuehn, Rose Czapor, Fred Thompson and Julie Bilodeau.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the February 20, 2023 secretary's report.

Deb Bieg gave the treasurer's report.

The 2023 Steering Team members are:

Jan Sherman-	Chairperson/Advisory Board Member
Patti Westburg-	Secretary
Deb Bieg-	Treasurer/Advisory Board Member
Jerri Hoffman-	Technical Director
Kathy Romans Hall-	Education Program Director
Carol Kluchinski-	Advertising
Al Jackson-	Scholarship Coordinator
Sarah Gallagher-	Advisory
Judy Nevin-	Advisory
Margery Salmon-	Advisory
Rich Carlson-	Advisory

Project Updates

Garden In Every Town - Margery Salmon gave an update on this project. She and Judy Nevin suggested that maybe plants could be donated from the plant sale for some of the gardens. Margery is also going to get in touch with the established garden in every town project to see if they have additional request or needs. More information will follow.

Boy in the Boot - Ann Awad is going to be the project leader for this project. She will be giving an update at a later date. It is located in Wallingford, VT.

Plant Sale - Patti Westburg and Jerri Hoffman gave an update on this years' plant sale to be held behind the Godnick Center in the park on Saturday- June 3, 2023 starting at 9:00 a.m.

We will be reducing the number of plants that we dig and pot from 1650 to 1200. About 450 less than last year. We are going to be more selective about the amount and variety. Will be digging less Hosta's and day lilies. Jerri Hoffman and I will be looking back on last year's sales and decide on what we want to cut back on. We make a great profit on the plants. We will be reducing the price on the specialty plants. From some of the feedback that we got after the sale, Jerri and I

feel that the prices were a little high on the specialty plants. People want to get a deal, so we don't need to compete with our local garden centers.

Again this year we will be very mindful of the Asian jumping worms. If you have them in your garden, please do not donate plants. We are asking that if you donate plants to the sale, please stop by and pick up soil and pots from me. If you are unable, we can replant with new soil. When we have our dig and pots, we will be getting to bare roots as much as possible for replanting. I will be sending out a request for dig and pots the first week in April so be thinking about it if you are able to host one or know someone that could. Please send Jerri or Patti their name and information.

UVM Program updates

Minor Protection Act/ background checks status - Jan Sherman gave an update. This is mandatory. If you have not completed the online training, please do so. It is also mandatory to complete the background check for all volunteers, not just project leaders. There is no cost to do so, but you must sign the background check in front of a notary. Forms can be downloaded on the UVM site. Jan Sherman will be getting a list of people who have and have not completed this training and she will get in touch with you if you have not done so.

Planning for new students meet and greet - After the new students have completed their master gardener's course, there will be a zoom meeting in May where project leaders can participate in the zoom meeting telling about their projects. The three scholarship recipients for Rutland County have agreed to help with the set up and working at the plant sale.

Jan Sherman gave an update on the volunteer requirements. Starting next year all volunteers will have to do the required 20 hours and 5 educational hours for their master gardeners' certification. Also applies to the requirements for master composters, which is fewer volunteer hours. Everyone who does not complete this requirement will be moved to alumni status. At any time, you can pick up from that status and do your volunteer hours. There is no more paying a fee without volunteering to keep your certification.

New Project Approval - The applications for new projects have been moved up to June 30th to apply for approval.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m. Tonight's speaker presentation will be Ann Hazelrigg via zoom. Topic will be pest and plant diseases to be aware of in 2023.

Next meeting will be April 17, 2023 in person at the Godnick Center and via zoom.

Respectfully submitted, Patti Westburg-EMG 2012