Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardener's Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Strasburg Community Center, Strasburg
July 15, 2015

Attendees:

Susan Garrett, President	Karen Brill, Vice President
Kris Behrends, Secretary	Lee Demko, Treasurer

Mary Flagg, Volunteer Coordinator
Ginny Smith, Clarke Co. Coordinator
Sharon Bradshaw, Shenandoah Co. Coordinator
Stacey Smith, Communications and Publicity Chair
Anne Dewey-Balzhiser, Parliamentarian
Sandy Ward, Co-Education Chair
Mark Sutphin, VCE

Susan Garrett brought the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. She announced that One Degree Capital, Stacey Smith's employer, donated $200 to MG for GardenFest in honor of the good work that Stacey does for their company!

June Board Minutes: Susan Garrett noted that the minutes were distributed to the Advisory Board. Bob Carlton moved to accept the minutes, Karen Brill seconded, and it was approved by the voting Board members.

Treasurer's Report: Sharon Bradshaw requested that $117 for the new tent for Shenandoah County be taken out of the general fund. Bob Carlton moved to pay this out of general funds, Karen Brill seconded it, and it was approved. Lee Demko presented the report that follows:

Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardener Association

Financial Statement for Period Ending July 14, 2015

Checking balance 7/13/2015			$ 9,064.44
Checks outstanding:			
1564	A Hutchinson	$ 30.00	
1566	M Neese	$ 50.00	
1583	Cedar Creek & Belle Grove	$ 50.00	
1587	K Rindt	$ 44.70	
Total Outstanding		$ 174.70	
Checking Balance as of 7/13/2015			$ 9,064.44
Investments:			
CD, United Bank		$ 5,172.24	
Savings Accnt, United Bank		$ 5,123.36	
(7/2/15 $20.00 deposited to maintain active status)			
			$ 19,360.04

Respectfully submitted

Saundra Lee Demko, Treasurer

Vice President's Report: Karen Brill announced the program for the July meeting be at the Clermont Farm in Clarke County. She will e-mail the final details. The August 16 meeting will be at Mary Craig's home. It will be a stepping stone workshop. Susan will ask members to let Karen know if they want to attend the August meeting.

Strategic Plan: Review of goals follows.

3. <u>Communication</u>
   a. Web development (Stacey advised that a page for each project will be added to the Web site)
      i. Make public portion more educational, current, and interesting (some links aren't active, the header is too large)
      ii. Newsletter (public subscription. How do we get word out to the public? Is there an interest in producing this? Set some goals. How many people access our Web site? Anne suggested having a committee review the Web site. Susan will ask at the next meeting who is interested in being on the committee.)
      iii. Kids' Corner
      iv. Pest of the Month
      v. Hot Topics
      vi. Form newsletter committee: Ginny Smith, Stacey Smith, and Anne Dewey-Balzhiser
   b. Web updates
      i. Update committee needed to review Web page
         1. Identify what works
         2. Identify what needs updating
   c. Map how we communicate

i. Externally
    1. E-mail list for newsletter
    2. Subscription on Web page
    3. Beef up newsletter for public
    4. Additional
        1. Fliers
        2. Radio and printed press
        3. Postings on Facebook pages
        4. Presenting scholarships at schools

County Coordinators' Reports:

Clarke County: Ginny smith reported on ongoing and upcoming activities: Farmers Market, county fair, and July meeting at Clermont Farm. MG have been invited to Clermont Farm Days on September 12 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Would Clarke County be interested in attending? August 12 is the deadline for deciding. Ginny will notify Clarke county members?

Frederick County: Things are going well. Russ Watkins is now the GreenLine coordinator for this county.

Page County: Working on projects that interns can participate in. Page County is re-invigorating their Farmers Market.

Shenandoah County: Sharon Bradshaw announced the Farmer's Market and Green Help Line office hours are going well. Two 4-H camps will be starting soon. This is a project that Shenandoah County has participated in for several years. The slave cemetery project is on hold while deciding which plants will be incorporated. The fair judging class has four students signed up. Anyone interested should contact Bob Carlton or Sharon Bradshaw.

Sarah Kohrs met with the state archaeologist at the Sam Moore Slave Cemetery site and reported that he was most impressed with the information she had to share and the progress so far in identifying individual graves. She is still researching background of the cemetery and will be reporting as work continues.

Warren County: The new Samuels Library Children's Garden is under construction. Matt Windt and Katherine Rindt attended a meeting last week to look at the progress of the hardscaping and discuss the status of the project. The installed hardscaping resulted in triangular beds much smaller than the dimensions they were originally given. The designs they provided are a bit of overkill considering the reduced sizes, but the library plans to use the plant lists as an ordering guide and the plans will be adjusted at planting time. The library has scheduled the planting of the triangles and other beds for 10:00 on July 28. All are welcome to come help out. The more hands the faster we'll all get out of the sun.

The Warren County Fair is August 3 – 8. Since Katherine will be out of town, Cy Haley has volunteered to coordinate the set up and removal of the MG Information Booth at the Trade Show in the Wonder Building. She's collecting names of volunteers so Tammy can provide her the with gate passes to get in. Katherine'll get all the materials to Cy the week before the fair starts. Like last year there are no plans to staff the booth all the time but hope to have someone there during the busy time most evenings.

Volunteer Coordinator: Mary Flagg announced that Paula Brownlee is leader for a new project: Working with mentally handicapped people at the Northwest Community Service. Nine of the 2015 MG class have now reached their 50 hours. Marlynne McCullogh has requested adjunct status. Bob Carlton moved to accept this request, Lee Demko seconded it, and the motion passed.

VCE Agent: Mark Sutphin shared the following:

- On September 19 is Winchester's Main Street Ag. Day at which there will be a VCE booth.
- There will be an open house on August 15 at the Alson H. Smith Jr. Agricultural Research and Extension Center which will include a tour of the facility.
- Two-thirds of the background screenings have been completed. He's asking county coordinators to remind members to complete the screening.
- There will be a planning meeting July 21 at 10 a.m. to work on the 2016 MG class. The Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit building will be the location, and the class will be from 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please e-mail Mark if interested in attending the meeting.

Standing Committees:

Communications and Publicity: Stacey Smith advised that there will be a meeting in August drafting members to help write Web articles.

Education: Rebecca Davis will be presenting a workshop on Preservation on Thursday, July 30, at the Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit building. Karen Brill advised that she will need a count of who will attend.

The 2016 symposium will be on March 12 at Shenandoah University, Winchester. Karen and Sandy Ward are working on speakers, and the menu is planned. They are asking for garden-related vendor suggestion (two per county). They are requesting five door prices of at least $25, and have asked the county coordinators to work with their membership to provide a door prize from their county.

Finance: Lee Demko reported that she has received a list of expenditures for GardenFest. Sharon Bradshaw advised that expenses are missing for the children's workshops.

Membership: No report

Newsletter: No report

Scholarship: Susan advised that Lynn Hoffman reported there are no applications received for college scholarships. It was suggested that another scholarship committee meeting be scheduled. Susan has appointed an Ad Hoc committee to finalize scholarship guidelines. Bob Carlton, Karen Brill, and Lee Demko will be on the committee.

Special Committees:

2015 MG Class Update: Discussion pursued regarding a $423 credit for the class that came about because there was a donation given to the class.

GardenFest Update: Stacey Smith announced that there will be a plant sale meeting on Saturday, July 18.

Old Business:

The Blandy Farm plot really looks good, and donations of food are already being distributed from the garden.

New Business:

1. Notecards: Susan Garrett spoke with Piccadilly Press regarding the cost of printed thank-you cards. They will charge $86.25 for 25 cards plus $14 for the envelopes. Bob Carlton moved to approve the purchase of the printed thank-you cards, Karen Brill seconded the motion, and the motion passed Karen Brill moved to adjourn the meeting, Kris Behrends seconded it, and the motion was approved.

2. NSVMGA Picture Storage: A lot of pictures have been taken at MG events, and discussion followed on how to store those pictures. It's very time consuming uploading the pictures to VMS. On the NSVMGA Web site, it's a free platform so there's limited storage space available. Some suggestions were to store pictures on CDs, hard drives, Drop Box, and/or cloud storage. Stacey Smith, Mary Flagg, and Mary Craig will be on a committee to research for a solution to picture storage.

Bob Carlton moved to adjourn the meeting, Karen Brill seconded the motion, and it was approved.

The next meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on August 11 at Strasburg Community Center.

Respectfully submitted by

Kris Behrends
NSVMGA Secretary