

Feb. 13, 2025, Waupaca County Master Gardener Meeting Minutes by Carrie Hitchcock-Esch

Attendance: Doug, Patty, Randi, Rebecca, Joan, Bridget, Jean, Faye , Connie and Carrie

December minutes were approved – Joan made the motion to approve and Doug 2nd the motion

Rebecca gave the treasurers report for both the months of Jan and Feb, 15 members dues were mailed into the state organization, cost (15.00) for yearly dues were covered by WCMG for those in attendance of the Christmas party, others not in attendance paid out of their own pocket

2025 budget and budget request were gone over by the group, looking at what was spent and requested for 2024 and past years. **Rebecca will have a complete report for us at the March meeting**

Items discussed pertaining the budget included, plant sale, fairgrounds garden, membership, king garden (petals of honor), sturgeon trail, Christmas party, insurance, liability, library gifts, NL children's garden, refreshments, scholarship, storage rental, manawa triangle park, St. Joe's monarch meadows

Highlights of those discussions:

Money not spent stays in the MG fund

Fairground building is the fairground gardens, discussion of redoing the shade garden that no longer receives shade because the tree is gone

Plant Sale is June 1 and directional signs need replacing. Advertising idea is Good News Waupaca through the Waupaca Rotary, 9:00am Wednesday mornings – Faye would be our contact with the Rotary.

Donation to the libraries was increased in 2024 to \$100 up from \$25.00 the previous years. It was decided to donate \$50.00 to each library this year, with possible increase if the plant sale brings in more monies.

Scholarship amount will be at \$500.00, with possible increase to \$1,000.00 dependent on the amount raised at the plant sale. The past 2 years (2023 and 2024) the scholarship recipient expected \$500.00 but received \$1,000 but there was money available.

Two projects need to fill out budget request forms so that those working on those projects are covered by insurance, the triangle park garden in Manawa (Alice) and St. Joe's monarch meadows (Bridget)

Country Visions of New London looking for someone to give a seed starting presentation. Carrie talked to Misty of Country Visions, which is a business hosting an open house. Carrie asked the MGs what their thoughts were on whether it was allowed to do a presentation for a business. Everyone said no that would not be allowed for a Master Gardener to do a presentation for a business. However, if a person were to do it not as Master Gardener representative but as their own person it could be allowed. Carrie has decided not to do it.

The scholarship application was discussed with the group. It was decided to eliminate the parents' occupations from the form as well as the optional essay question: Include a statement of extenuating financial circumstances which affect your need. The application will be sent out Feb. 18th to each of the 7 school districts in the county. Applications are due May 5, 2025.

Meeting locations for the upcoming WCMG meetings need to be located because of courthouse remodeling the basement is no longer available for us to use in 2025 and 2026. Carrie will contact the library in Waupaca and Patty will contact the High School

Connie briefly discussed the June 1st plant sale, ask friends and family if their gardens need thinning – we could use the plants, if anyone has garden art to donate to the sale and houseplants

Meeting adjourned