

**CMGA Annual Meeting
Saturday, November 13, 2021
Zoom Virtual Meeting**

Note: Minutes were sent to BOD members on 11/15/21 pending Paula's reconciliation of votes with BOD member attendance, and any subsequent corrections.

Meeting Logistics and Introductory Remarks

Paula Russo called the meeting to order at 9:02 am. She asked attendees to rename themselves using first and last names, so that members' votes could be counted. She asked that questions be posted in the Chat window, to be monitored by BOD members; and highlighted the link to the CMGA Events Access Page that was emailed prior to the meeting. Note: The business meeting was recorded. About 80 people attended.

2021 Accomplishments

Paula reviewed the year's accomplishments, which included a 3/20/21 virtual Symposium attended by over 300 people. This 27th Anniversary Symposium raised around \$10,000. Plant sales at McCue Gardens' Nursery Day and at the CT Science Center's MakeFest raised \$1,500. CMGA supported the UConn Extension Master Gardener program with nearly \$12,000 in outreach grants, extension office support, and MG scholarships. Though the Summer Safari was cancelled, several registrants attended a tour of Lockwood Farms' fig greenhouse, led by Dr. Charles Vossbrinck. CMGA began using MailChimp to streamline email to members.

Minutes of the November 2020 Annual Meeting

Linette Branham made a motion to accept the minutes, which had been posted prior to the meeting. The motion was seconded and carried, with 34 "yes" votes and zero "no" votes.

Treasurer's Report

Sue Demuth mentioned CMGA membership decline and urged people to pay their 2022 dues. She presented the budgets for 2019-21 and the 2022 proposed budget. Susan Eisenhandler moved to approve the 2022 budget. The motion was seconded and carried, with 43 "yes" votes and zero "no" votes.

Connecting with CMGA

Paula reminded people of ways to donate to CMGA, including the PayPal Giving Fund and Amazon Smile. She highlighted spring and summer grants awarded and reviewed the criteria for applying for grants. She reviewed the ways that people can connect with CMGA in between events, including the website, social media, and *The Laurel* newsletter.

Elections of New Board Members and Executive Board Members

Kathye Cipes thanked retiring BOD members Theresa Hennessey and Carolyn Wilcox; she presented the names of two new proposed BOD members: Kathleen Cassidy (Hartford) and Mary Jane Toomey (New Haven). Sue Demuth made a motion to approve these two new BOD members. It was seconded and carried, with 48 "yes" votes and zero "no" votes.

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Kathye Cipes presented the slate of officers for the Executive Board. Susan Eisenhandler moved to approve proposed officers Paula Russo (Interim President) and Jean Fletcher (Interim Vice President). The motion was seconded and carried, with 48 “yes” votes and zero “no” votes.

Membership Renewal

Paula urged attendees to renew their membership for 2022, and Kathye announced that the Membership Form had just been activated on the CMGA website; about 20 people signed up during the meeting. Paula said that BOD meetings are open to visitors, who can contact a BOD member if they’re interested. Sue Demuth asked what members would like to see from CMGA, and several people responded via Chat. Most questions were answered right away, including several that related to the difference between the UConn Master Gardener program and CMGA. The entire Chat session was saved.

Symposium

Kim spoke briefly about the virtual Symposium planned for 2022, with the theme “Gardening for Good.” It will focus on 1) celebrating gardening; 2) gardening with intention; and 3) compassion and sharing of gardens.

Speaker presentation

Paula reminded attendees that Tovah Martin would begin her presentation, titled “Maximizing Space in the Garden: Creating More of a Good Thing,” at 10:15 am. The business meeting adjourned around 9:45 am.

Note: Tovah’s handout was emailed prior to the meeting. Following a short break, Theresa Hennessey introduced Tovah, who gave a very well-received talk, followed by a lengthy Q&A session. Nearly 120 people attended.

Minutes taken by Carolyn Wilcox