



February 2, 2016 General Membership Meeting Minutes

A small group of hardy souls braved the weather to attend our first educational program of the year: “Keeping Watch over Our Water” a presentation by Sara U’Ren, Program Director of The Watershed Center of Grand Traverse Bay. The presentation identified the threats to our water quality and highlighted the projects the Watershed has undertaken to preserve and protect our water as well as what individuals can do to contribute to protecting our water quality.

Attending: Michele Worden, Whitney Miller, Judy Reich, Glynis Waycaster, Sara Sokolnicki, Marilyn Newsted, Tim McGrew, Carol Hypio

Business Meeting

Call to Order: 7:45 pm

Attending: Michele Worden, Whitney Miller, Judy Reich, Glynis Waycaster, Sara Sokolnicki, Marilyn Newsted

President’s Report: Michele Worden

1. State of the Association
 - a. Membership: As of 2/2/16 we have 44 members
 - b. Financials: The 2016 Budget and a draft of the Green Roof Project Summary will be available at the April Meeting
 - c. Connections: There are over 280 subscribers to our newsletter “The Real Dirt” and we have had 316 “Likes” on our Facebook Page
 - d. Partnerships: We are partnered with the Grand Traverse Conservation District and the Botanic Garden Society. The GTCD provides meeting space for us at the Boardman River Nature Center in exchange for our volunteer hours maintaining the Nature Education Reserve Gardens. The BGS acts as fiduciary for fundraising through their Non-Profit Status (501c3) and provides volunteer insurance.
 - e. 2016 Goals:
 - i. **Revise/Update Association Bylaws**
 - ii. **Grow our Membership**
 - iii. **Improve communications and connections**
 - iv. **Investigate possible affiliation with Michigan Master Gardener Association (MMGA)**
 - f. Draft Bylaws: Bylaws have not been updated since 2006 and do not reflect how we actually operate. The proposed new Bylaws were made available to attendees and will be sent to the membership via e-mail and are posted on



- the MGANM Website (MGANM.org) for review. Please review and send comments/questions to Michele Worden. Vote for adoption is scheduled for the April 5th meeting.
2. Volunteer Opportunities
 - a. 2015 Statistics: Extension Master Gardeners (EMG) volunteered 4529 hours in 2015. The largest project undertaken in 2015 was the Green Roof Project at the Boardman River Nature Center. A detailed report and slide show can be found on the website.
 - b. 2016 Featured Opportunities: Please Check the MGANM Website for many and varied opportunities.
 - i. MGANM needs Committee Chairs for Membership, Programs, and Communications/PR
 - ii. Rain Gardens in Suttons Bay and at the Leelanau Government Center need volunteers
 - iii. Spring Cleanup Volunteers are needed at the Boardman River Nature Center
 - c. Educational Opportunities: Please check the Website and Facebook page for an ongoing list of opportunities. Member Meetings count toward volunteer and education hours.
 3. Connect with MGANM
 - a. Member Meetings: First Tuesday of April, June, August, October
 - b. Board Meetings: First Thursday of March, May, July, September
 - c. Events: Recognition Luncheon November
 - d. Website: <http://mganm.org>
 - e. Email: info@mganm.org
 - f. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Master-Gardener-Association-of-Northwest-Michigan>

Adjournment: 8:40PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Reich, Secretary MGANM