Anne Arundel County Master Gardener EAB Minutes

January 8, 2014 9:30 a.m.

Anne Arundel County Extension Office, Dairy Lane, Gambrills, Md.

Attendees: Joyce Dail, Sharon Smith, Mike Ensor, Kay Stringfellow, Kathy Enderle, RoseMary Swartwood, Harry Caldwell, Meg Kauder,

Coordinators Comments: Mike Ensor reports that the State wants the Master Naturalist and Master Gardener programs to not overlap.

Old Business:

1. **CEC** and Learning Landscapes are No longer active MG Projects.

2. **Speaker Report**: Advanced Training Day: RoseMary & Meg have a meeting on January 15th @1p.m w/ Lisa Robbins new director of London Town. We will discuss a Saturday date for the event, theme for the speaker, parking, picnic table use, etc.

3. **EAB Meeting time**: The meetings will continue to be held @9:30 a.m. Possible move to evening EAB meetings will be discussed when new board members are installed.

4. **By-Law changes**: The only change to by-laws will be the criteria for EAB attendance, as agreed to last month.” By-Law changes: Section II, 3,A will read: “Attend a minimum of 9 meetings, preferably w/ absences not consecutive. There is leeway for illness & unforeseen events.” 2nd & voted @ December 2013 meeting.

Project Approvals:

A. In 2014-15, EAB will assess projects more in terms of the MG goal to educate the A.A. county citizenry with project activities, thereby lessening “maintenance” aspect, & increasing projects’ outreach & education activities. B. Starting in January, 2014 a series of Project chair meetings will be scheduled to help project chairs to strengthen outreach & education characteristics. Active vs. passive education was discussed. Criteria for passive education will be set. C. The possibility of installing free standing plexi glass & wood sign as part of most projects was offered. Approval by site would be requested prior to installation. Eagle Scouts could build & fund. Project chairs would use these cases to display such things as environmental purpose of the site, event or garden, plant pix, articles on the importance of native pollinators, etc. D. There was further discussion on increasing MG presence at the county fair.

5. **Project Chair meeting**: Liaison will remind the Project Chairs of the meeting at Dairy Farm 7 P.M. on 1/23/14. At this meeting, stress: Projects cannot be “closed” to new MG volunteers, encourage chairs to send “success stories”. Handouts with pertinent web site instructions will be distributed. Discussion & encouragement to increase projects’ outreach & education activities will occur.

6. **Secretary/ Scribe**: A new system is being discussed, no decisions have yet been made.

7. **Software**: Suggestion to send Certified letter to request return of software.
New Business:

1. **Finance report**: Given by Kathy E.
2. **#’s of contacts & hours**: Sharon reports volunteer hours decreased in 2013. The beta system of software has been pretty successfully tested by 10 volunteers. Once the new system is UP, there will still be an admin.step between MG’s inputting their hours & acceptance of hours. Password discussion aamg2014.
3. **County map**: Joyce displayed the large county map showing projects in comparison to geography. Southern & Western A.A. county are less served than Annapolis area of the county. Discussion concerned possibility of adding more sections to specific projects: Ask A… and Composting, etc. Current chairs would train new teams. Team leaders would be responsible for schedule maintenance, equipment, etc. at the new sites, just as they are at the current ones.
4. **Intern Class Mgt**: Discussion concerning fees increase,&/or reimbursing those who complete the course, in order to diminish effects of attendees who use training to further their individual job/work credentials. Mike would like to see higher # of interns completing the program next year. Further discussion on keeping a “wait list” in case of drop outs. Kathy reports Mg program made approximately $1500 profit on this years’ payments.

MKauder 1/13/14