

**CMGA Annual Meeting  
November 5, 2022  
Virtual Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m. by interim President Paula Russo.

**Introduction - Paula Russo.**

- Agenda
  - Business meeting - will be recorded and posted to CMGA website for viewing for one week
  - Break at 9:45 a.m.
  - Speaker presentation - will be recorded and posted to CMGA website for viewing for one week
- Update on 2022 activities: focus = adding benefits for members
- 2023 grant cycle - will be announced early spring
- 2023 Symposium - March 11 - “Gardening for Good - Full Circle Gardening”
  - Speakers will be announced shortly.

**Business meeting.**

**2022 accomplishments - Paula Russo.**

- Support to Master Gardeners
  - \$5,575 - grants
  - \$3,500 - scholarships for MG interns
  - \$1,800 - support for MG Coordinators
- Symposium
  - 175 attended
  - International and regional speakers
  - Raised over \$5,000
- Plant sales - raised \$1,200
  - McCue Garden Nursery Day
  - MakeFest at Connecticut Science Center
- Emphasis on member events
  - Seed blocking workshop
  - Cricket Hill Nursery
  - McCue Garden, MakeFest plant sales
  - CT Daylily
  - Lockwood Farm
  - Broken Arrow Nursery
- Tree Shrub Vine (TSV) workshops for interns
  - Connecticut College Arboretum - New London
  - Cedar Hill Cemetery, Hartford
  - Sherwood Island State Park - Westport
  - James L. Goodwin State Forest - Hampton
  - Edgerton Park - New Haven

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**Proposed changes to CMGA Bylaws - Jean Fletcher, interim Secretary**

<p><b>Article V, Section 2.</b> Payment authority. Deleted vice president; added assistant treasurer. Payment authority expanded to include all payments, not just checks.</p>	<p>The President, Treasurer, and <b>Assistant Treasurer</b> shall have the authority to <b>issue checks and all other budgeted and approved payments</b> for the Association.</p>
<p><b>Article XII, Section 1.</b> Minimum requirements for Association policies and procedures. Whistle Blower policy deleted because it is addressed elsewhere (Removal of Officers and Directors). New policy added. Data Security, Data Management, and Data Access.</p>	<p>The Board shall establish policies and procedures necessary for the appropriate governance of the Association. These will include the following, at a minimum: Finance and Accounting; Conflict of Interests; Removal of Officers and Directors, and <b>Data Security, Data Management, and Data Access.</b></p>
<p><b>Article XIII.</b> Protection of Directors. Indemnification updated to clarify that designated Board volunteers are also covered..</p>	<p>No Director shall be liable to the Association except for his/her own acts, neglects and defaults in bad faith. No Director shall be liable out of his/her personal assets for any obligation or liability incurred by the Association. The Association alone shall be liable for the payment or satisfaction of all obligations and liabilities incurred in carrying on the affairs of CMGA. CMGA shall provide indemnification insurance for its Directors and Officers <b>as well as designated Board volunteers.</b></p>

Debbye Rosen moved that the proposed changes to the CMGA Bylaws be accepted as presented.  
Susan Eisenhandler seconded the motion, which carried.

**Approval of minutes from the 2021 annual meeting - Jean Fletcher, interim Secretary.**

Debbye Rosen moved that the 2021 annual meeting minutes be accepted. Kathy Cipes seconded the motion, which carried.

**Approval of minutes from the 2022 semi-annual meeting - Jean Fletcher, interim Secretary.**

Debbye Rosen moved that 2022 semi-annual meeting minutes be accepted. Kathy Cipes seconded the motion, which carried.

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**Election of 2023 Board members and officers - Susan Eisenhandler, Chair, CMGA Nominations Committee.**

Board members returning in 2023 and those who are retiring were acknowledged.

The proposed new board officers was presented, as follows:

Edward Hopkins - New Haven

Cheryl Johnson - Litchfield

Beth Marsh - Stamford

There were no nominations from the floor.

Susan Eisenhandler moved to accept the proposed new Board members. Debbye Rosen seconded the motion, which carried.

The proposed slate of officers was presented, as follows:

President - Paula Russo

Vice President - Mary Ellen Seuch

Secretary - Jean Fletcher

Treasurer - Deb Prior

Assistant Treasurer - Debbye Rosen

There were no nominations from the floor.

Susan Eisenhandler moved to accept the officer slate as presented. Debbye Rosen seconded the motion, which carried.

**Proposed 2023 budget - Debbye Rosen, Assistant Treasurer.**

Each annual budget is flexible in that adjustments are made throughout the year as actual income and expenses are assessed. Expenditures are in keeping with the CMGA mission statement and discussions with the State MG coordinator.

A question from the floor addressed the modest 2023 projected deficit. It was explained that CMGA has a healthy reserve fund which can be used if needed to cover a deficit.

A question from the floor asked how much is currently in CMGA's reserve fund. CMGA has sufficient reserve funds to cover a year's operating expenses, if the need arises.

Kathye Cipes moved to accept the proposed 2023 budget. Susan Eisenhandler seconded the motion, which carried.

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**Closing remarks - Paula Russo.**

- 2023 membership drive will be launched shortly; please remember to renew
- Consider providing a quote about your CMGA experience that can be shared on CMGA's social media (using your first name only).

**Native and Non-Native Plants for a Sustainable Landscape - Nancy DuBrule-Clemente.**

- Nancy founded Natureworks Horticulture Services in Northford, CT in 1983.
- The presentation shared Nancy's expertise on how to create a high quality ecosystem using a mixture of native and select non-native plants that support pollinators, birds, animals, and all the life with which we share our yards.
  - "We are all weavers of the web of life in our yards."
  - Cover for wildlife
  - Pollinator pathways
  - 70/30 native/non-native recommended by Doug Tallamy - make plant choices within this context
  - Action plants for ecological function (e.g., elderberry, quince, blueberry, spice bush)
  - Factors to consider - length of bloom; late or early bloomer
  - Some varieties of plants may not be good for pollinators (e.g., no fruit, no thorns, double flowers)
  - Gardening with native/straight species from Connecticut will limit our gardening.
- "Go back to the beginning and soothe the souls of humans."
- A number of audience questions were answered.

CMGA's 2022 annual meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.