**ALPINE MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION**

**January 22, 2014 Meeting Minutes**

**Location: United Way Building, Gaylord**

President Kent Strawderman brought the meeting to order at 6:50 pm.

Board Present: President Kent Strawderman (983-2531), Vice-President Jeanne Freymuth (732-5348), Treasurer Dee Burau (732-2527). Excused: Secretary Betty Hartmann (231-546-2100).

Minutes of the December 5, 2013 Annual Meeting were available for review. President Kent recapped the Annual Meeting and holiday potluck dinner noting the Articles of Incorporation have been amended; a new board was elected; reminder to record hours on-line by year end; upcoming spring workshop March 15, and May library gardening series. Rudi Edel made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Cathy Campbell seconded. Motion passed. If you did not receive meeting reminder and agenda, please contact Betty Hartmann at 231-546-2100 or bettyhartmann@yahoo.com.

Treasurer’s Report-Dee Burau

* Year end and month end financial reports were previously sent out
	+ Bank balance as of 12/31/13 is $5,877.32
	+ Total AMGA available funds are $4,573.38
	+ OWLS $885.00 left for Patriot Place; MSUE Coordinator $418.94
* 2014 Proposed Budget Worksheet was previously sent out
* 55 Members in 2013
* $10 AMGA 2014 dues and $5 MMGA liability coverage due by January 31, 2014

Committee Reports

Fund Raising/Cookbooks-Betty Steinhoff, Chair

* 1,134 cookbooks received with 4 damaged; 718 sold; 20 awarded; 392 left to sell
* Contact Betty 350-4616 blscustom@charter.net if you have cookbook inventory, if you need cookbooks to sell, or have ideas of how/where to sell them. Betty will send Board updated report.
* Sales tax will not be collected on cookbooks because gross sales will not exceed $5,000 in a calendar year. Please sell cookbooks for $20 (no tax included in price).
* It was suggested we raise the price of the March 15th Event by $20 to include a cookbook. The suggestion was discussed. Cost of the Event has already been established with efforts to keep price low. Cookbooks will be available for sale at the Event.

March 15th Workshop-Jeanne Freymuth, Chair

* “***Get Growing” Workshop and Luncheon*** will be held at Livingston Township Hall on Saturday, March 15, 2014 from 9:00-3:00. Register before March 5th for $25, after for $35. Send your name, address, phone, email and check to AMGA, c/o *“Get Growing”* Conference, PO Box 1331, Gaylord, 49734. Marilyn offered to be registrar.
* Guest Speaker, Craig Schaaf, of *Golden Rule Farm* will present *“Secrets to Nurturing Vegetables For an Abundant Harvest”.*
* Chef and farmer, Mike Everts, of *Real Food Dream Kitchen* and *Blackbird Gardens* will cater a locally grown, clean-food, garden luncheon and morning treats.
* Educating the public to “Grow Healthy \* Eat Healthy \* Live Healthy” is attracting sponsors for the Event. We received a very generous donation from the OWLS who’ll be the “Presenting Sponsor”. Full sponsor list will be printed on the brochure next week. Watch for an email and please help spread the word in any way you can (family/friends/groups). Flyers were available at the meeting. Erica Wescoat-Large designed the flyers/brochures and did a fantastic job.
* Much help is needed to make this Event a success. Thank you to those at the meeting who signed up to help. Anyone interested in helping, please call Jeanne 732-5348.

 Meeting snacks – Marilyn Kaczanowski, Chair

* Tonight’s snacks were provided by Elaine Harris and Michelle Roberts. Delicious, thank you both.
* Signed up for February meeting snacks are Cathy Brandenburg and Sandi Edel.

The Meeting re-convened at 8:10 pm after a snack break. Rudi assisted 5 members in renewing for 2014.

Meeting program-Jeanne

* Ideas of what the group would like to have regarding meeting program are welcome and encouraged.
* February-Winter Sowing project (highlighted by Ursula Owens); March-round table; April-Banquet; May-plant exchange; June and July-Demo garden work-bees; August-garden tour at Kent’s; Sept/Oct?

May Library Series-Cathy Campbell and Michelle Roberts

* Tuesday evenings in May; 6:30-7:30 pm at Otsego County Library.
* Seeking ideas of speakers and topics of interest-contact Cathy 231-238-2145 or Michelle 705-8247

April Banquet-Rudi and Sandi Edel

* Wednesday evening, April 23, 2014
* Contact Rudi or Sandi with thoughts for speaker 732-1244 or mgc.otsego@gmail.com

Old Business

* Carol Buxton reported $69 raised from December Silent Auction, to help fund OCD Demo gardens

New Business – Budget

* Due to the time, Kent suggested the proposed budget be tabled until February’s meeting giving members more time to review and ask questions.
* Jr. Master Gardener expense was discussed. Cathy Campbell made the motion to allocate up to $1,400 to the 2014 JMG Program. Discussion followed in which Patricia Osburn stated she would try to get some of the funding elsewhere. Rudi Edel seconded the motion and it passed.
* Kaitlyn Kiessling is the Americore worker replacing Justin Burchett, who’ll be coordinating the 2014 JMG Program Thursday’s March-Summer. If you’d like to help, contact OCD office 732-4021.

Other Business-Kent

* President Kent stressed how helpful it is to know the members desires for the group. He will email the 2013 survey to aid the group in giving the Board feedback, suggestions and direction of what the group would like to accomplish in 2014.
* Reminder: Car pool has been set up for Northern Michigan Small Farm Conference. Meet at Hayes Township Hall at 6 am, February 1, 2014. Six members at the meeting plan to attend. For more info, contact Kent or Jeanne.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm. Next Meeting will be 6:45 pm on February 26th at the United Way Building. Please bring a milk jug for the winter-sowing project. Seeds and other supplies will be furnished.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Jeanne Freymuth

Vice President, Acting Secretary in Betty Hartmann’s absence