

St. George's Community Garden and Sunset Trail Committee

Meeting minutes for November 13, 2025, 6:30 -8 pm

In attendance: Mara Pike-Parsons, Cathy Strickland, Colin Pearson, Don Strickland, Ernie Bennett, Kristen Hamel, Mattie Bennett, Pauline Bennett, and Siobhan Cregg

- Meeting called to order at 6:35pm
- Welcome to our newest committee member, Mara Pike-Parsons
- February 25th meeting minutes adopted by D. Strickland, seconded by P. Bennett

FINANCIAL REPORT

739.51	OPENING BALANCE AS OF JANUARY 1, 2025
INCOME	
900.00	2025 Western Wellness Coalition Garden Shed Grant
4,000.00	Active NL Trail Grant
750.00	NL Agriculture Garden Grant
9,286.26	Emera NL Trail Donation
595.00	Public Donations
452.85	Green Depot Recycles (withdrawal from Green Depot Account)
15,984.11	Total Income
EXPENSES	
12,013.55	Trail maintenance and upgrades
1,194.78	Garden maintenance and upgrades
0.00	Website cost
110.00	Earth Day event
13,318.33	Total Expenses
3,405.29	CLOSING BALANCE AS OF NOVEMBER 13, 20205
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	
334.70	Green Depot credit balance (not withdrawn from Green Depot account)
COMMITMENTS	
2,222.71	2025 Emera NL donation trail upgrades
70.00	Incorporation Fee
277.65	Garden Improvements (NL Agriculture Grant)
1,169.63	UNCOMMITTED BALANCE

SIGNAGE UPDATE

Highway Signage

The signage on the highway and at the bottom of Steel Mountain Road were one of the two major signage projects this year. Our application to the Ministry of Transportation was approved for the installation of the highway signs, allowing us to move ahead with this project per government regulations. We hope that the Sunset Trail – Explore St. George's signs and finger boards highlighting the services in our town will encourage people to come into St. George's.

The highway and local business signage was made possible through the Town of St. George's approved motion to apportion \$4900 from the Gas Tax revenue. The cost of the signage was \$4500. All expenses were paid directly by the Town. A summary report of the cost of the signage was provided to the Town.

Thank you to the Royal Canadian Legion for allowing us to install the services sign on their property.

Thank you to the Eatery on Main and Central Service Station for their donations towards this project.

Thank you to Ernie and Don for installing the highway signs and Ernie, Don, Siobahn and Cathy for installing the Services sign at the base of Steel Mountain Road.

Trail Signage

The new Trailhead sign at the Community Garden provides a great overview of the current trail system. Logos for our major donors are recognized on this sign. The cost of the trailhead sign was \$950 versus the \$1000 that was allocated.

We hope the increased signage along the trail will help people navigate their way on the trail. We will continue to add more signage.

We would like to acknowledge and thank Turf Point Resources for allowing us access to their property (Sunset Trail Path towards Seal Rocks) and the causeway, as well as their donation of cement grade sand to allow us to fill low spots on the trail. The causeway is a private road owned by Turf Point Resources and the haul truck traffic has the right of way. We have ordered signage to make trail users aware of this.

TRAIL UPDATE

2025 has been a busy year for trail upgrades. Thanks to the \$4000 grant from Active NL and the \$9286.26 donation from Emera Newfoundland we are able to complete all of our 2025 trail upgrade objectives, including the bridge across Molly Ann's Brook (\$5,542.62 in materials – work completed by volunteers), additional garbage bins, sign posts, signs, and the boardwalk over boggy areas. There is \$2,222.71 that is committed from the balance of the Emera donation that we will use for additional signposts and signage.

Thank you to Ernie, Don, Kenny Strickland, David Strickland, Rick Young and Greg Cutler for building the bridge and the boardwalks.

Thank you to Don Strickland for keeping the trail mown and collecting the garbage and replenishing the bags from the garbage bins along the trail and the community garden.

EARTH DAY UPDATE

The Earth Day Community Clean Up was a tremendous success. We were so pleased to see so many volunteers come out – residents, our volunteer Fire Department, River Riders ATV Trail Association, Helping Hands. Together we cleaned up 1 tonne (2,200 pounds) of garbage! Thank you to the St George's Volunteer Fire Department, the Town of St. George's for the use of their truck and driver and for covering the dump costs, Atlantic Edge Credit Union for their \$100 donation which we used for the appreciation barbecue at the end of the day. Thank you to the Recreation Committee for their clean up on the following Thursday around the Rec Plex grounds.

Since Earth Day community resident Edward Fost has been continuing with major trash pick up along the stretch of road near Black Bank. His dedication to keeping our area clean is to be commended.

We now have 10 garbage bins installed throughout the trail (Seal Rocks beach, Molly Ann's Brook bridge, access to trail near Main St at Molly Ann's brook, marina, Red Rocks, Sunset Trail bridge at haul road, Long Point, Man O'War Brook bridge, 2 along the Causeway area).

GARDEN UPDATE

In collaboration with the Bayview Academy industrial arts students and grant funding from Western Wellness Coalition a new garden shed was constructed and installed in June. An appreciation barbecue was held to thank the students for their hard work.

Over the summer, the St. George's Indian Band received substantial funding through the JCP Job Creation Grant. This grant is funding the upgrades to the stage at the Community Garden and the construction of a pergola. The stage is now fully enclosed (including a shingled roof) and wired for electricity.

The members of the Garden Committee have redesigned the garden around this new structure. Thank you to Siobhan, Kristen, Christine Young, Cathy and Pauline for the revised garden design. Thanks to Pauline for creating the rendering of the new garden design, which will include the removal of the existing raised beds, a four-square garden, cold frames, and new perennial beds. The TD Environmental Grant secured by the St. George's Indian Band will help fund the redesign of the community garden. More information will be forthcoming after consultation with Chief Rhonda Sheppard in the coming weeks and will be relayed to the committee at the next meeting.



A discussion on the possibility of a Port-a-Potty or a bathroom at the Garden was discussed. It is not clear whether there are any funds allocated from the Band's grant for this. There was a high-level discussion with Chief Rhonda about the purchase of a Port-A-Potty and the sharing of the maintenance fees associated with it during the 4 months it would be open. Kristen to find out how much this commitment would cost our group on an

annual basis. Once we know what this is it will be brought to the committee to determine if this is something we can take on financially.

Mattie has committed to championing this initiative and will approach the Town Manager to determine if this is something the municipality would be willing to assist with (tying into town water and sewer).

Considerations for having a public bathroom (Port-A-Potty or physical building) is if this is not a municipal asset, who will be responsible for cleaning it, replenishing the toilet paper, paper towel, hand sanitizer. There would have to be a volunteer commitment for this.

Thank you to Pauline for also designing a new Community Garden logo. Minal Hoddinot has volunteered to digitize the logo for us.



NL Agricultural Garden Grant – the balance of funding from this grant (\$277.65) can be used for anything garden related that we choose.

FREE LITTLE LIBRARY

Our application to the North American Little Free Library grant program was successful. The library has been installed at the community garden, and a second one will be housed at the St. George's Indian Band office foyer. The response has been very positive, with lots of donations – so much so that the St. George's Pharmacy has graciously provided a space for the overflow of book and jigsaw puzzle donations.

New member Mara has volunteered to oversee the Free Little Library.

OTHER

- 1) Lottery license application. Siobhan has been working tirelessly for the past year to obtain a lottery license through the province gaming commission with no success. Her inquiries regarding the application have gone unanswered. She has kept records of the application submission as well as all attempts at contact. Without any response from this application process a consensus to move forward in Spring 2026 with raffle for 3 handmade prize items was made. In the meantime, Siobhan will keep trying with our application.
- 2) Community Hero – the committee would like to nominate at each meeting a different community hero that we will spotlight on our Facebook page. These heroes will be recognized for their special contributions to making our community great. Our first community hero will be Edward Fost.
- 3) An application for the 2025 Atlantic Edge Credit Union community grant has been made. This grant is upwards to \$8,000. Successful recipients will be announced sometime before the new year.
- 4) Next meeting tentatively scheduled for the end of January, 2026. This meeting will also serve as our AGM.

Future Discussion Topics for 2026

1. Earth Day
2. Raffle
3. 2026 trail improvements
4. Additional picnic tables along the trail
5. Garden Party

Meeting Adjourned at 8pm.