

# St. George's Community Garden and Trail Committee

## Meeting minutes for October 29, 2024, 6 -7:30 pm

**In attendance:** Cathy Stickland, Colin Pearson, Don Strickland, Ernie Bennett, Kristen Hamel, Mattie Bennett, Pauline Bennett, and Siobhan Cregg

**1) Meeting called to order at 6:05pm**

**2) July 15, 2024 meeting minutes adopted.**

**3) Financial Report.** Bank account balance is \$954 of which \$154 is uncommitted.

*Transactions since July 15/224 mtg.*

		<b>\$3,025.56</b>	<b>Jul 15/24 mtg balance</b>
\$30.00		\$3,055.56	Jul 16/24 Eva Praught Donation
	\$361.80	\$2,693.76	Jul17/24 Garden and Garden Party Expenses
	\$722.83	\$1,970.93	Aug 13/24 Trail Upgrade expenses
	\$56.07	\$1,914.86	Aug 13/24 Garden Party expenses
	\$1,000.00	\$914.86	Aug 13/24 Student Cost
\$40.00		\$954.86	Siobhan and Ernie Donation
		<b>\$954.86</b>	<b>October 29/24 mtg balance</b>

*Outstanding Commitments.*

\$200.00		\$1,154.86	Present Green Deport Account Balance
			Trailhead sign commitment associated with the Western Health Wellness Coalition Grant
	\$500.00	\$654.86	
	\$500.00	\$154.86	Helping Hands commitment for Trailhead sign

### **4) Trail Items**

**Trail Update** – Committee completed significant trail maintenance this summer and erected signs and garbage cans from the Trailhead to Man-O-War Brook. Reported positive feedback from residents and visitors regarding the upgrades and signage. Increased trail usage has been noted.

- a) **Objective to build a bridge over Man O' War Brook. Funding requested from the Kinsmen.** Cathy shared that she has confirmation of a \$2,000 donation from the Kinsman. \$3,000 was requested for costs related to the construction of the Man O' War Brook bridge and the Trailhead sign. **Action:** The trail committee will begin working on the bridge with the objective to complete before the end of 2024.

- b) **Objective to build a bridge over Mollie Ann's Brook and improve the trail to Barachois Brook. Funding requested from ActiveNL through Town.**  
*Town Manager submitted a funding request of \$13,000 on behalf of the garden and trail committee. Expect to hear in early 2025 of the status of this grant application, with the work to be completed in Spring 2025. The funding request is for \$10,000. The remaining \$3,000 costs will be shared by the Town and the Committee.*
- c) **Objective to install a Trailhead sign** – \$1,400 is now earmarked for the trailhead sign (\$500 from Western Wellness Coalition, \$500 from Helping Hands and \$400 from the Kinsmen). This sign will be located at the community garden. There was a suggestion to consider adding a QR code to the sign to link to the website and a trail map. **Action:** *The trail committee will begin working on the Trailhead Sign with the objective to complete before the end of 2024.*
- d) **Objective to install highway and community signs.** Funding requested from the Gas Tax program through the Town. *\$6,000 has been requested for 2 @ 4' x 8' signs for the highway to attract visitors into Town to use the Sunset Trail and support local businesses. 15 smaller business signs are targeted to be installed at the bottom of Steel Mountain Road to direct visitors to local businesses. It is expected the funding status will be known before the end of 2024 for installation in 2025.*

## 5) **Garden Items**

- a) **Garden Update** – *The work completed by summer students contributed to significant aesthetic improvements to the garden site. Students created new perennial beds, added another raised bed, assisted in the clean-up of the recently cleared area, sowed grass and clover seeds, erected the trellis and helped organize and facilitate the Garden party and Recreation youth programming at the Garden site. Discussed need for improvements in soil preparation in perennial and raised beds.*
- b) **Garden Beds. Action:** *Garlic and fall bulbs will be planted within the next week.*
- c) **Recently cleared area** – *Work is ongoing – The committee needs to continue clearing rocks, establish markers for shrubs planted and create new flower beds. The vision for the cleared area was briefly discussed. It will be a green space for ornamental shrubs, flowers, as well as benches and tables. Action: Members are encouraged to forward their ideas and suggestions.*
- d) **Construction of Garden Shed and funding from Western Wellness Coalition** – *The \$1,000 grant application submitted at the end of September*

was successful. The funds will be used for the construction of a tool shed and purchase of additional garden and trail maintenance tools. Discussed potential donations of materials and volunteers to build the shed. Discussed ways to engage the high school students taking woodworking course. **Action:** Kristen will connect with the high school woodworking instructor to discuss possible partnership and student engagement with this project. This project may also be considered as a work experience opportunity. **NOTE:** The funds will be granted in the spring of 2025 under the Wellness Coalition's 'special projects' designation. That funding is not part of the regular annual funding therefore the trail and garden committee will be able to apply for a regular grant in 2025.

- e) **Picnic tables** – The committee agreed that two of the picnic tables at the community garden can be relocated to the wharf. The table that is currently at the wharf is in bad shape and needs to be removed. For the longer term, we discussed the possibility of accessing funding through the Town beautification funds to purchase more garbage cans and picnic tables for green community spaces **Action:** Mattie will move two picnic tables to wharf and remove the table that is there now. **Action:** Don will continue discussions with the Town regarding Committee support for Town beautification.

### **Other Items**

- 6) **Web site update** - Cathy shared that the basic Go Daddy website is limited in what we can do in terms of design, linkages, etc. Discussed possible additions to the website such as a links to a trail map, financial page, sponsorship page, etc. **Action:** Cathy will research costs and corresponding website upgrades to share with the committee, including linkages with a QR code. There may be funding available for these upgrades in the new year.
- 7) **Bottle Depot promotion** – Discussed revenue generated and opportunity to increase awareness of the committee's account at the Green Depot. **Action:** Kristen agreed to create a post for the St. George's Community Garden's and Trail Committee's Facebook page. All members are asked to like, comment, and share the post. The account is under phone number 293-6350. It is also requested all members promote the Bottle Depot Account within their social circles.
- 8) **Incorporation of the Committee.** Discussed need to incorporate/register for the Committee to be able to access more funding opportunities. Discussed other advantages of incorporation such as credibility, transparency, liability, etc. **Motion passed unanimously to investigate process.** **Action:** Siobhan will begin working

*through the process, and update committee and advance discussion through emails. The process will be completed before the next meeting.*

9) Next meeting scheduled for January 14, 2025. Location to be defined.

10) Meeting Adjourned at 7:20pm.

#### **Future Discussion Topics**

- 1. Completion of a 2024 summary report and posting on our website in early 2025. Once incorporated it will be an annual requirement.**
- 2. Earth Day 2025 preliminary thinking and consideration of adding a refundable recycling drop off or pick up.**
- 3. Additional Fundraising opportunities**
- 4. Roof for stage at Community Garden**
- 5. Strategies to engage youth through schools, community partnerships (Recreation Program, St. George's Indian Band).**
- 6. Vision for cleared lot in front of Community garden.**