

**Saco Community Garden
Steering Committee Meeting
January 10, 2018, Saco Rec Center
Minutes**

Present: Peg Mills, Joel Hersom, Michelle Hiltz, Bruce Martel, Karen Martel, Walter Buczacz

Peg Mills called the meeting to order.

Minutes of November meeting were accepted unanimously.

Finances

Peg presented the updated budget and financial report that she received from the city. She noted that the water bill was listed twice. She will present a proposed budget for the upcoming year at the next meeting.

Karen reported that the CLYNK account now totals \$134.25. Peg requested a \$31 reimbursement from that account to cover her out-of-pocket expenses for hardware for the shade porch.

The Rec department reported \$530 for rental income as of early January.

Old Business

Garden By-Laws and Guidelines updates:

Peg distributed copies of the proposed By-Laws and Guidelines to each member for review. They will be voted on at the next meeting.

Projects for upcoming year:

Shade porch: lattice, painting, excavate, **and gravel**

Accessible plot: will plan to complete this year

Additional garden plots: Peg proposed that this work be contracted out to a local business such as Moody's. The project requires digging down 18 inches, and filling with loam and compost. It is estimated that 6-7 new 10x10 plots could be added, including two for the Food Pantry. Peg will seek approval from the Rec Dept. for the expansion, and create a schematic for the expansion.

Gardeners in good standing:

Joel reported that three gardeners ended the season not in good standing. Peg noted that it took a lot of phone calling and follow-up to get several gardeners to meet the requirements after the deadline.

New Business

Nominating Committee:

Peg and Karen will serve on the nominating committee for the March elections, and will

contact other gardeners to join the committee. Peg has a list of several gardeners who may be interested in serving on the Board. The current Board members expressed interest in continuing their positions.

Saco Recreation Department:

Peg plans to meet with the new Rec Dept. Director, Ryan Summer.

Annual Meeting:

The Annual Meeting will be held on March 14, 2018. The agenda includes approving the annual budget and electing officers. Joel will contact China House to make arrangements for a private room. He will also send notification of the meeting to our current mailing list. We don't have an updated list of 2018 renters. Peg will purchase a \$25.00 gift card from Moody's Nursery for a door prize.

Other Business:

It was noted that regular monthly meetings will be held on Wednesdays this year.

As of this meeting, 21 plots have been rented, ~~for a total of \$530~~. Any year-round plots that have not yet been rented are available to anyone interested.

Joel will send out information to members about the Master Gardener Volunteer Program application, which is due on January 12.

The next meeting will be held on February 7, 2017 at 6:30 pm at the Rec Center.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Martel
Recording Secretary