

**Saco Community
Steering Committee Meeting
August 8, 2018 at Saco Recreation**

Present: Rachel Bolduc, Ron Bolduc, Joel Hersom, Michelle Hiltz, Bruce Martel, Karen Martel, Martin Schindler, Epona (Carole) Savage, Walter Buczacz came in late. Peg Mills absent.

Bruce Martel called the meeting to order at 6:27 pm.

Epona thanked the volunteers who helped her maintain her garden plot (#31). She said that she was a gardener in the first year of the Garden.

July Minutes

Joel made a motion, seconded by Marty to accept the July minutes with one correction. Approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Peg is on vacation.

CLYNK balance \$59.39

Marty has a receipt for replacing the handle on the mattock (\$17.92), which he'll give to Peg.

Volunteers

Joel reported that 19 have completed no volunteer hours, 17 have partially completed their three hour minimum, and 12 have completed their obligation.

A total of 106 hours and 10 minutes have been completed.

It was reiterated that clearing the pathways does not count toward volunteers hours. In general, volunteer tasks need to go through the volunteer coordinators (Peg and Ron).

Epona is looking for a volunteer project that doesn't involve lifting.

Building projects:

a) *Shade Porch* – The City Code officer approved the anchors on the uprights. The wheelbarrows are being stored under the shade porch, but should be stored leaning on the other end of the shed. The lattice that Bruce donated may not be the best choice, so he will remove it. Plastic lattice may be a better choice.

b) *Accessible plot #7* – The cost to build will be about \$684 from Deering Lumber for wood and screws. They will give a 10% discount on the wood for the project. Bruce started digging the topsoil out of the plot. It needs to be dug out about 6 inches down and the soil set aside on tarps. Concrete pavers (about \$60) will be used around the perimeter. It will need to be lined. 5 yards of 1/2" stone will fill the bottom beneath the topsoil. Dayton would deliver stone for a total of \$200. The garden soil would then be replaced on top. 12" depth should be sufficient.

Because it's been so hot, work may be delayed until closer to fall. Bruce will supervise, but workers are needed. Total cost will be about \$950. On discussion, it was clarified that Home Depot does not carry cedar, which is what we plan to use. Epona will donate another tarp for storing the soil.

c) *New Plots* – This will be a fall project that we'll contract for. Bruce is requesting that someone look into taking bids for this project. Moody's was suggested. Rachel and Michelle offered to call for at least two bids, but need more information as to what we need. Ron pointed out that heavy equipment will need access, and maybe the City could excavate the plots. Bruce suggested that maybe one of the new plots be dug as accessible initially.

Epona suggested the Encore program for grants for projects for folks over age 55. Bruce will contact Epona for more information about this. Two of the plots will be for the Food Pantry. (There are seven new plots total)

Gardener of the Month

#48 Sarah Bowen was selected as Gardener of the Month. Michelle will move the sign.

Old Business

We replaced one hose. One more hose is available if needed.

All the hose hangers have been removed except for one. Joel will remove it.

There are two metal tools racks that could be installed. Bruce will look at them and determine where they should be located.

Epona volunteered to replant the hanging plants, and will paint the chair.

New business

Only one door of the shed can be opened. If the wood could be shaved off, that would help. Walter will take a look at it.

Bruce suggested that the focus of future projects be limited to the maintenance of the garden. There was general agreement on the concept.

Sunflowers and corn are growing in #47 and corn is growing in #10. In the Bylaws it's **suggested** that that items not be taller than 6ft. Joel suggested that we revisit this in the Bylaws for next year.

Michelle pointed out that the walkways and perimeters are being encroached by plants outside individual plots. Karen will send an email to all gardeners about this.

The meeting adjourned at 7:42

The next meeting will be on September 12 at 6:30 pm at either the Garden or the Recreation Center.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Martel, Recording Secretary