

**Saco Community
Steering Committee Meeting
September 12, 2018 at Saco Recreation**

Present: Walter Buczac,, Bruce Martel, Karen Martel, Martin Schindler and Peg Mills. Michelle Hiltz came in late. Epona (Carole) Savage, Nancy Nelson, Bertha Dawn. Absent: Rachel Bolduc, Ron Bolduc and Joel Hersom

Bruce Martel called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

August Minutes

Marty moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Walter. Minutes accepted unanimously

Treasurer's Report

Reimbursement from the City is slow. Checks will be sent to Marty for the Maddock handle, and Bruce for the staples. Bruce also has a receipt for pavers to line the accessible plot.

The CLYNK balance \$64.04 as of 9/12/18.

Marty moved to accept the treasurer's report seconded by Karen. Treasurer's Report accepted unanimously.

Volunteers

Joel had submitted a written report that listed the volunteer hours completed:

- 17 have completed at least 3 hours
- 15 have partially completed 3 hours (including one gardener who has left the garden because she moved.)
- 15 have completed no volunteer hours

A total of 129.9 hours have been completed.

Gardener of the Month

Congratulations to #40 Bertha Dawn

Building projects:

a) *Shade Porch* – Peg will review her notes on prices for lattice, and will find volunteers to install it when it is available. There was a discussion about the longevity of wood: 10 years was estimated for pine lattice.

b) *Accessible plot #7* – Has been dug to 6” deep. Will fill with ½ inch rock. Bruce met with Ryan to determine where the stone can be dumped: to the right of the gate. Dayton Sand & Gravel can deliver. We need someone to meet the truck. Peg said she could meet the truck during the day. There was discussion about walking surface for the accessible bed. Estimated that it will take 5 yards total fill. Peg will ask for Dayton's advice for a solid walking surface. Planning for two 3Ft x 10ft beds with an estimated 3 -foot walkway in between. We need two more tarps to accommodate the fill. Peg will provide from home. The pavers can go in after some of the stone has be put in. Peg and Ron will round up volunteers for the project.

c) *New Plots* – Michelle, Rachel and Bruce met to discuss excavating the new plots. Michelle and Rachel will get estimates for this. Patrick Fox is the DPW head, who has the excavation equipment and may be able to use the soil that is removed for fill. Whiterock Logging and Excavating (Tony is the contact) gave the following estimates: digging 18 inches down: \$3700, digging 10 inches down and topping with a blend of loam: \$2700. Questioned whether it would be organic loam. Michelle or Rachel will go to Moody's for an estimate. It was noted that Whiterock also requires a payment of half upfront, requiring someone to write a check for that amount. With slow payments from the City, that would be difficult.

Old Business

The sharp hose hangers were removed.

Bruce fixed the shed door so that it closes.

We have tool racks that are available to hang.

Nancy mentioned that she found the garden gate was left unlocked twice.

New business

Neighborliness:

It was reported that a gardener was wearing a firearm while in the garden. While this is legal, it worried the gardeners who saw it. Peg, who is acquainted with the gardener, offered to make contact. She reported that the gardener said they had not intended to cause alarm, and in the future would refrain from bringing a firearm into the garden. Peg also offered to contact another gardener who was planning to leave the garden because of the firearm, and explain the situation, in case that person wishes to reconsider. No other action was proposed, and there was no vote.

Extra tall plants: Bruce contacted a gardener about extra tall sunflowers. The gardener took care of them. There's also a tall sunflower in Garden #27: Bruce will contact that gardener.

Harvest Supper:

Peg moved that we skip the harvest supper this year and Marty seconded that.

Discussion: Peg said that in recent years there hasn't been much interest or attendance.

She also suggested the idea of making it a fundraiser in the future. Bruce agreed that we have a lot going on and it would be hard to focus on it. Vote: all in favor of not having a harvest supper this year.

Fall newsletter:

Content ideas: harvest, volunteer hours, clean up garden, photos of board. pix of construction projects. The goal is to mail it before the next meeting. Peg and Karen will work on this.

Website: Bruce proposed that we establish a website as a repository of information about the garden, including an archive of minutes. Marty made a motion that we establish a www.sacocommunitygarden.org that would be run by the steering committee. Peg seconded the motion. Passed unanimously. Karen will purchase a domain and create a page for the committee to review.

The meeting adjourned at 7:56

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 10 at 6:30 pm at the Recreation Center.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Martel, Recording Secretary