

**Saco Community
Steering Committee Meeting
October 10, 2018 at Saco Recreation**

Present: Rachel Bolduc, Ron Bolduc, Walter Buczacz (until 7pm), Joel Hersom, Bruce Martel, Karen Martel, Peg Mills. Absent: Michelle Hiltz, Martin Schindler, Epona Savage came in late.

Bruce Martel called the meeting to order at 6:28 pm.

September Minutes

Peg moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Rachel. Minutes accepted unanimously

Treasurer's Report

Peg has not been reimbursed by the City since April. She will go to the City to inquire about the delay. In this fiscal year (ending November 30), we have spent \$944.92 to date from our budget of approximately \$5000 The CLYNK balance is \$9.72 as of 10/10/18. Peg noted that rental receipts were up over estimates this past year.

Joel made a motion seconded by Rachel to accept the Treasurer's report, all approved.

Volunteers

Joel reported the volunteer hours completed:

- 22 have completed at least 3 hours
- 13 have partially completed 3 hours (including one gardener who left the garden mid-season because she moved.)
- 12 have completed no volunteer hours

A total of 140.3 hours have been completed.

Bruce noted that the compost needs to be processed. Peg said she has added layers of brown leaves to speed the processing. She noted that large vegetative stems have been piled in the compost. She said that the cutting tools are missing from the shed. Pruners are needed to cut large vegetation. Peg made a motion to buy a pair of small clippers. Joel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Building projects:

Shade Porch – It was decided that lattice will be added next year.

Accessible plot #7 – Peg will supervise the gravel delivery. Bruce has an extra tarp which we can use. Construction strategies were discussed.

New Plots – Ron reported that the Saco Food Pantry has a surplus of fresh vegetables in the summer, and therefore the SCG should not dedicate plots for the Food Pantry. Peg made a motion that two of the new plots not be dedicated to the food pantry as originally planned. Joel seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Michelle received a quote of \$3700 by White Rock to dig the new plots 18” down and covering with mixed loam. Digging down 10” would be \$2700. Peg questioned whether the loam would be certified organic.

Rachel talked with Blaine Fortin at Quality Yard Service. There was confusion about whether the City said that the ground should be frozen when the work is done, so Blaine didn't think he could do the project. It was clarified that Ryan Sommer stated in an e-mail that the ground should be firm (not wet) when the equipment comes in.

The budget is \$2300 for this project. Bruce proposed carrying the money into the next budget, or completing the project in two stages. He suggested that the maximum for the project be about \$3000, some of which could be taken from other line items. The consensus was that it would be better to complete the project at one time.

Peg will call Rob Moody about an estimate for the project, and will also call MOFGA and The Cooperative Extension for advice about organic loam. In addition, she will call Pat Fox about whether DPW could use the excavated dirt, since Ryan Sommer said the Parks Dept. can't use it.

Discussion ensued about whether 12" or 18" would be an adequate depth for excavation. Rachel will get a complete estimate from Quality Yard Service. She also said that this company requires a contract (signed by Bruce), and half payment down. Peg said that she could cover the deposit and wait for reimbursement from the City.

Peg proposed that we could vote online once we have estimates. Bruce thanked Joel for meeting with Ryan about the project while Bruce was on vacation.

Gardener of the Month

It was a tie!!!! Congratulations to # 37 Cynthia, and #42 Bobbie

Old Business

The tall sunflowers have been removed. Bruce will review the guidelines about this, and will bring a draft version of new guidelines to the next meeting.

Website

Communicating with garden renters has been challenging. Few use Facebook. It was proposed that SCG have it's own webpage. Karen purchased www.sacocommunitygarden.org from GoDaddy. She created a sample website on her web server. She said that it would be better for SCG to rent it's own space, and suggested GoDaddy to be the host. They have a special first year deal at \$2.49/month, \$7.99/month after that. Peg moved that we establish the web space after the new fiscal year begins on December 1. Suggestions for content include archives of the minutes, videos of how to compost, and gardening tips.

Newsletter

The Fall newsletter was completed by Karen and Peg, and was printed and mailed out last week. It cost \$59.82, which was paid for with CLYNK funds.

There was discussion about hanging the tool racks in the shed. Peg will try to get a volunteer for this project.

New Business

Bruce suggested that if we wanted more accessible plots, it might be less expensive to do this while the new plots are being excavated. Peg pointed out the the hoses would be on the opposite side of the garden and difficult to move for some gardeners. She also

suggested that perhaps we should see how having one accessible plot works out after it's been in place for a year.

Peg brought up the idea of reprinting the garden brochure, which is distributed throughout the area for potential renters. She said that each year we have 18-19 new renters. Karen has started revamping the brochure. Peg will assist. Rachel and Joel can distribute. There was thanks to Karen about starting the project.

The next meeting will be on **Monday, November 19 at 6:30 pm** at the Recreation Center. Drafting next year's budget will be included on the agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 8:09

Respectfully submitted by Karen Martel, Recording Secretary