

**Saco Community
Steering Committee Meeting
November 19, 2018 at Saco Recreation**

Present: Rachel Bolduc, Ron Bolduc, Walter Buczacz, Joel Herson, Bruce Martel, Karen Martel, Peg Mills, Martin Schindler, Bruce Arral, Sarah Bowen Michelle Hiltz came in late.

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

October Minutes Joel made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Marty. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report Peg presented the proposed and actual budget for Dec. 1 2017-November 30, 2018. The accessible plot materials were \$872.60. Peg & Karen will reconcile the CLYNK account and hospitality expenses. Dayton Sand & Gravel donated most of the gravel. Peg has paid half of the \$2864 to Moody's for the new plots. There's currently \$16.97 in the CLYNK account. Karen will check her checkbook for the ice cream social costs. Marty made a motion, seconded by Joel to accept the treasurer's report. The motion passed unanimously.

Volunteers Joel presented the volunteer hours report. One garden was not cleared out: #39 Dawn DeSimone. 26 renters completed their hours, 10 partially completed their hours, 6 completed no hours. The list was reviewed in detail. Peg & Bruce will work together to finalize the hours. Bruce will contact the gardeners who still owe hours, and will work with Peg on this. Bruce Arral made the point that new people may need hands-on training in some volunteer tasks. Peg thanked Joel for tabulating the volunteer hours.

Peg made a motion that gardeners who have completed at least 2.5 hours be considered in good standing. Joel seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

There was discussion about gardeners who may not be able to physically handle garden work. It was thought that they should be encouraged to co-rent with another gardener.

Discussion ensued that with 55 plots and gardeners, and with no new building projects planned, that there may not be enough volunteer work available next year. Joel made a motion to decrease the volunteer requirement to two hours (instead of the current three hour requirement) Ron seconded the motion. Peg suggested that we wait until spring to decide. The motion passed with one objection.

Building projects:

Shade Porch – The lattice will be added next year.

The tool racks in the shed need to be more secure.

Accessible plot #7 – is complete

New Plots –

Peg contacted Rob Moody about the new plots, which he would like to complete in the fall. Ryan Sommer doesn't want heavy equipment in the Park when the ground is wet, and doesn't think it will be possible to complete the project until as late as June. Peg will discuss this with both of them. Peg made a motion that #49 & 50 be the year round plots. Joel seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Old Business

Karen presented her findings about establishing a website through GoDaddy. She suggested that a more robust website may be more useful, as it would be possible to have gardeners notified when news is posted to the website, making it more timely. It would also be very easy to send a professional-looking newsletter to all the members via this service. Those who don't have internet access could receive a printed version of the newsletter. Such as site would be about \$180 a year, as opposed to the \$80 for a basic website. There was discussion as to how other local organizations handle communications and newsletters. The anecdotal discussion showed that most sent a online newsletter. Peg moved & Rachel seconded the motion that we upgrade to the more robust website. The motion passed unanimously.

Guidelines and Bylaws: Bruce is working on slight updates on the Bylaws and Guidelines. He will present them at the January meeting. There was a brief discussion about the 6 -foot height limit. It was felt that the current guidelines were appropriate.

Opening Registration

Ryan should be contacted by the Chairman by the end of the month about opening registration on December 1. He will need the list of barred renters. It was felt that the Accessible plot should be the same price as a regular seasonal plot. There was a discussion about scholarship for garden plots for low income people. More information is needed from the Recreation Dept about how they distribute scholarships for their programs..

Advertising

Karen presented an updated brochure and poster for distribution. Atlantic Coastal Printer charges 0.60/brochure, and 0.40/8.5x10 poster. Total would be \$36 for 50 brochures and 15 posters. Ron suggested asking for a quote from Minuteman. Karen will follow up. Peg moved/ Joel seconded up to \$50 for brochures and posters. The motion carried unanimously. Peg said that Lin will distribute.

New Business

Peg will present a proposed budget at the January meeting.

There will be no December meeting.

The next meeting will be January 9, 2019 at 6:30 pm

The meeting adjourned at 8:10

Respectfully submitted by Karen Martel, Recording Secretary