

Minutes 09/18/2025 Amended

Saco Community Garden

Saco Community Center

There were seven members in attendance:

Joel Hersom Bruce Martel

Polly Gosselin Karen Martel

Amanda Mondor Ciera Lazarus

Bertha Dawn

The August minutes were accepted unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Financial City Balance as of September 2025	\$2,431.84
Petty Cash	\$ 459.34
Clynk	\$ 79.05

Volunteer Hours:

# of Plots	Hours Completed
7	not started
14	partially completed
32	completed

Gardener of the Month for September is Christine Long, plot #23. Congratulations Christine!

Old Business:

Service opportunities only being sent to gardeners who haven't completed their hours yet.

Ryan of the city reports that the water line needs to be replaced this fall. Being it is on city property; the city will be paying to have this done.

The shed has both carpenter ants and carpenter bees. The shed has been treated to eliminate the problem, but it is recommended that we paint both sides of the fascia boards.

Because of extenuating circumstances, it was voted unanimously to waive the volunteer hour requirement for plot #10.

Four plots were turned in early and offered to gardeners who would like extra room to plant late fall crops. Two of these plots were taken and planted.

Compost bin #1 still needs to be emptied so repairs can be made.

New Business:

Items to be included in the new two-year budget were discussed; including doing a soil test and adding amendments, rototilling in 2027, repairing the pathways, tool sharpening, and fence repair.

Ciera volunteered to organize the Harvest Potluck set for November 20 at 6:00pm.

It was decided to have an end-of-year survey to get input for how the year went and any suggestions for next year.

There is an opening on the Steering Committee which needs to be filled for the remainder of the season.

Thank you, Karen, for sending out the September newsletter!

The compost barrel added to augment the buckets is working out well.

Several gardeners were placed in “not in good standing” status having abandoned plots with no attempt to clear them.

The schedule for registering for plots was discussed:

January returning gardeners wanting the same plot

February returning gardeners wishing to change plots, all Saco residents

March open registration

Questions and Comments:

It was pointed out that the new budget needs to be passed in January, so we will have time to work out what should be addressed before then.

The schedule for rototilling the garden was mentioned in the January 2024 minutes.

“Soil Test: Peg reported that the garden needs nutrients. The PH is 7.3, and the soil is short on Potassium. It is suggested that we add fertilizer and sulfur. Soil amendments will be added in the spring. We have about 5500 square feet to cover, and will keep the walkway fabric in place. In two years, when we test again, the garden will be roto-tilled and new fabric walkways put down.”

We will need to address the schedule for when to rototill the garden at our next meeting.

It was suggested that we make soil test kits available in the tool shed for anyone who wants to test their individual plots.

When replacing the landscape fabric for the two-foot walkways, instead of cutting down the four-foot lengths, it was suggested that we fold the material, so it is double thickness.

It was voted unanimously to adjourn.

The next meeting will be October 16 at the Community Center.