

Minutes 04/17/2025

Saco Community Garden

Saco Community Center

There were 10 members in attendance:

Joel Hersom	Bruce Martel
Ciera Lazarus	Susan Garrigan
Karen Martel	Bill Cline
Linda Edgerton	Bertha Dawn
Amanda Mondor	Walter Buczac

The minutes from the March meeting were passed unanimously after one amendment changing the waiting list to “only one plot still open.”

Financial Report

Financial City Balance	\$2,546.38
	- <u>19.87</u> water bill
Total	\$2,526.51
Petty Cash	\$ 416.09
Clynk	\$ 60.25

Volunteer Hours: Nancy made all the plot name stakes. Thank you, Nancy!

Old Business:

It was decided to continue with the flowers near the gate, in the hanging baskets, and the climbing flowers for the shade porch.

Adding gravel at the gate was discussed, and Bill offered to talk to Parks and Recreation about getting a small amount of gravel to level the ground at the gate.

New Business:

May 31st is the last day for the season when the city rents out any available plots. After this date, the steering committee will manage the waiting list for any available openings and inform the city of any new renters.

Peg Mills stopped in, and we presented a card and plaque to her in appreciation of her years of service to the Community Garden.

Five or six new renters have attended orientation, with another session scheduled for Thursday, April 24th. Bruce passed around an orientation check list to help cover all the pertinent information for new renters.

Opening Day will be announced as soon as the ground is dry enough to be worked.

The city will be turning the water on soon for the garden, and the wheelbarrows and tomato cages need to be moved out of the shed.

Some of the corner grade stakes need to be replaced, so Bruce will be buying two bundles. To protect the hoses, it was proposed to get some pvc pipe to slip over the stakes the hoses are most likely to rub against.

The used floating row cover material is in a bin in the shed. Bruce will research buying another roll of lightweight row cover if there is none in the rafters of the shed.

Volunteer activities suggested were to clear the weeds from plot #45 and replace any landscape fabric pins where the fabric needs to be secured. Bruce will buy a package of 50 pins at Andy's Agway. Also, the soil level in the accessible bed is low, so another volunteer activity is to have someone with a pickup truck or trailer get a small amount of soil from Moody's.

It was discussed whether to revise the Guidelines to add orientation, and it was decided to work out any kinks before revising. It was also decided to remove the requirement for a Garden Activities Coordinator and use volunteers to coordinate the different activities. Another revision was to add that in the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, another steering committee member could run the monthly meeting.

Under questions and comments, it was brought up about the edges of the landscape fabric fraying, and it was suggested that the flame from a lighter might seal the edges.

To record volunteer hours, gardeners can either log it into the notebook in the shed or send an email. Please don't do both for the same hours. Another suggestion was that near the end of the season the list of volunteer opportunities should be sent only to those still needing to fulfill their obligations.

To help with chopping weeds going into the compost, Bruce will investigate getting a weed grinder.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, May 15th.

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously voted to adjourn.