

Saco Community Garden
Steering Committee Meeting Agenda
Community Center, Room 203
October 9, 2019

Attended: Bruce Martel, Karen Martel, Peg Mills, Michelle Hiltz, Theia and James Murphy, Joel Hersom, Bruce Arral, Laurie Thompson, and Walter Buczacz

Bruce called the meeting to order at 6:30.

Karen nominated Theia Murphy to the steering committee, Bruce seconded the nomination, unanimously approved

Joel made a movement to accept the minutes of the last meeting. Peg seconded, unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report

There is nothing new to report as there were no new purchases in the last month

The Clynk account now has \$111.29

Volunteers

Volunteer tally as of 10/8:

No volunteer hours: 14 gardeners

Hours partially completed: 13 gardeners

Completed: 22 gardeners

Total hours logged: 101

Compost: An email was sent out to use the compost in the gardens and to continue shifting the material. Ideally #1 will be as empty as possible towards the end of the season and clean up time.

Karen made a motion to test the soil in the garden. What amendments need to be added to the soil? The garden then needs to be tilled with the exception of the new plots and the year round plots. Joel seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. Peg will get samples of soil and send it to be tested. She will also buy the needed amendments. The aim would be to treat the soil this fall. Who will do the tilling? Peg will reach out to the Public Works and Moody's for recommendations and estimates.

Paths: The fabric in the paths will be taken up in order to correct the paths (and to accommodate the tilling). They have become uneven over time and don't match. There was a

discussion regarding how to correct and improve the paths. The details will be determined in the spring.

Shade porch: The roller shade needs to come down and stored in the shed. The table then needs to be tipped to the side.

Building/repair projects:

Many of the fence posts on the side and front of the garden are needing to be replaced. Many are broken at the bottom towards the ground and are being held up by the wire fencing material. Bruce will inquire about the possibility of using metal posts or treated lumber. This will likely go on next year's budget.

Two spigot hose supports still need to be replaced. A 10 foot cedar post will be purchased and cut into two parts. Jim Murphy is willing to do this and to cut it. The old ones are still in tact but they are on the radar and should be replaced before they break.

Old Business

Taking up the fabric in the garden paths as well as the staples holding it down are an upcoming volunteer opportunity. This should be done closer to the date in which the garden closes. It is important that the staples be removed as well as the fabric so that the tilling goes smoothly and staples do not get caught up in the rototiller.

Bruce spoke with the people who have untidy and encroaching gardens and they have worked on them.

People have also done a nice job this year keeping the garden locked.

Should we stay with the current system for registration and payment? It is too late to consider a change for the next gardening year but it would be a good topic for the January meeting.

New Business

The Gardener of the Month is plot #48

There was great appreciation expressed by the steering committee for the work that gardeners have put into the new plots.

Plot #7 will need some restoring. Soil was taken from the raised bed and mixed in with the gravel at the base of the bed.

Peg found some gardening chemicals (Bonide) in the shed. These are not Community Garden approved or allowed in the bylaws. We need to use products with the label Omri. Bruce A

suggested sending out an email notifying the gardeners that these products should not be used or left in the shed. Karen will send the email

As a reminder, tomato vines can not be placed in the compost bins.

The next meeting will be November 13, 2019 at 6:30pm at the Saco Community Center
Minutes submitted by Michelle Hiltz, recording secretary