

Saco Community Garden Steering Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, January 12, 2021, via ZOOM

### **Minutes**

Karen hosted the Zoom meeting. Peg called the meeting to order at 6:30.

Officers present: Peg Mills, Joel Hersom, Bruce Martel, Walter Buczacz, Harry Nielson, Karen Martel. Harry left early

Officers absent: Michelle Hiltz and Tina Hooper

Gardeners present: Linda Edgerton

Minutes of the November meeting had been approved via e-mail in November so that they could be posted on the website.

**Treasurer's Report:** Joel reported a \$845.00 balance in our account. The City reports \$1489.04 in our account. He also received \$16 in donations for extra seedlings that gardeners (primarily Walter) had left at the garden.

Joel reported no money in or out in December except for a few cents interest.

Karen paid \$75.70 for brochures and posters in November from the CLYNK account.

The CLYNK account currently has \$122.28.

Joel is away, but when he returns he will send the checks that he has received from the City to those who are owed money.

The GoDaddy website cost \$239.88. Karen sent Joel the invoice for reimbursement.

### **Old business:**

**Registration:** SPR received \$590 for registrations in December.

Karen reported that based on the SPR shopping cart system, there are 20 seasonal and 2 year-round plots available.

Peg had reported eight gardeners not eligible to register this year to SPR.

**Last Season Report:** Peg submitted a report on the Garden to the Steering Committee and Ryan Sommer at SPR.

**Communicating available rentals to the public:** Karen will write a press release to send to local papers. Peg will see about having a notice in the SPR Senior Newsletter, and the City's Saco Bay News.

It is unclear if stores, etc. will carry brochures because of the COVID-19 Epidemic. She will keep our brochure container at the gate filled. We also have posters which can be distributed.

Other ideas for advertising is with the Age Friendly Saco group, and with Saco Main Street. Linda suggested putting posters at the Mill complex.

**Nominating Committee:** Linda volunteered to serve on this committee. Peg will contact Michelle about heading the committee again this year.

**Budget Draft for 12/1/20- 11/30/21:** Peg sent the committee the proposed budget. Harry volunteered to build some bird houses. There was discussion about repairing and painting the shed. Some of our tools will need sharpening. Because of the pandemic it was decided to omit Gift Certificates/Door Prizes and Hospitality from the budget. There was also discussion about offering

scholarships through SPR. Peg will update the budget for the next meeting. The budget will be voted on at the annual meeting in March.

**New Business:**

We need more compost buckets. Karen found some for \$1 each. It was suggested that we purchase about ten for the season.

Peg brought some ideas for the new season. She suggested a new structure to the rental system, including converting all gardens to year-round status at \$30 each for all plots.

She also suggested changing the registration system to two dates: January for returning renters and February for all others. Any changes would have to be for the 2022 gardening season.

Group seed purchasing and seedling sharing were also suggested, as well as sharing recipes and photos on the website.

She is looking for more ideas about how to improve the garden.

There was a very brief discussion about purchasing a trail camera for monitoring the garden. The meeting adjourned suddenly at 7:50 when our Zoom time ended.

Submitted by Karen Martel, Recording Secretary pro tem