

**Saco Community Garden Steering Committee Meeting, April 13, 2017**  
**Minutes**

**Attending:** Peg Mills, Bruce Martel, Joel Hersom, Joe Hirsch, Walter Buczacz, Karen Martel, Mary Dawn, Bertha Dawn, Evan Green, Laura Overton, and Nancy Nelson. Absent: Liz DeSimone.

Meeting called to order by Chair Peg Mills. Minutes taken by Mary Dawn.

**Minutes** of January and March meeting approved unanimously (motion-Bruce, 2<sup>nd</sup> Karen).

An informal review of SCG **financials** was shared including that all plots are rented. The total rental fees for this fiscal year are \$1,600 so far, with \$300 over the budget estimate. Our annual water bill of \$59 was paid in December. We have received \$1,400 of local contributions toward our goal of \$2,500 and have \$750 in pledges outstanding. Peg will continue to pursue local sources. We also need to raise \$30 through our Clynk account in which everyone can participate by donating recyclables. Joe Hirsch applied for a grant with Home Depot. Peg will order 4 new hoses to replace those damaged last year.

**Evan Green**, Eagle Scout candidate and SCG volunteer, arrived to talk about the shade **porch project**. Evan has agreed to build the porch as his Eagle Scout project. He has the approval of his scout leader, has professionally prepared drawings and is supervised by adult builders. Joe Hirsch and Peg Mills have worked with him to review the plans and have approved them so far. Evan plans to have the porch completed by the beginning of July. SCG will provide a gravel pad. Evan and other scouts will excavate for the footings, set the footings, and build the structure. Evan will also pursue fund-raising materials at Lowes. He is waiting for final approval from the state office of the scouts, and then can proceed.

Peg explained that she has ordered the **picnic table** from the Boy Scouts (a separate project) and that Saco Valley Credit Union chose to pay the \$150 for the table as their donation.

All plots are assigned and we have **6 names on the waiting list**.

Some volunteers have already started on their hours, including Lin Zhou who distributed our pamphlets and flyers around the city, and Nancy Nelson who delivered our tools for sharpening and made the plot name markers.

Peg would like to send out a brief **newsletter** in snail mail to connect with all the renters. This is not in our budget, but she explained this would help bring everyone on the same level of information, including new renters and one renter who doesn't use email. Voted to approve this newsletter—passed unanimously.

Status of our other capital projects: Liz will try to find a second estimate for the **fence**. We have Anchor Fence's estimate for \$2,695. Peg also mentioned that a post at the front gate is weak. Joe will contact Maine Line Fence for another estimate. Joe will also contact Bear Hill Lumber about materials for the **accessible plot**.

Peg is starting to organize **volunteers** for measuring and staking the plots so we can open. We will also need some repair to the fabric walkways, but not as much as last year. We have landscape fabric in the shed rafters, and Joe Hirsch has a box of extra staples. Michelle Hiltz has agreed to be shed tidying boss. Bruce Martel will once again serve as compost boss. Peg suggested we label the compost bins this year and that we need more “brown” material in our compost. Jenny Lee is fashioning the “Gardener of the Month” sign and Bertha offered to help her with supplies. Laura Overton offered to be flower boss.

Joel nominated **Laura Overton as an additional member at large**. Passed unanimously.

It was decided to keep **meetings on Thursday, but change them to begin at 6:30pm**.

A reminder that we will not till or soil test this spring as previously decided.

Peg wished for 10 by 10 frames around each rental plot that would eliminate the annual measuring (an expensive dream). She also mentioned that she found a very good article on soil health.

Next meeting, **May 11 at 6:30** at Saco Parks & Recreation.  
Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Dawn.