

**Saco Community Garden Steering Committee Meeting,  
May 11, 2017 Minutes**

**Attending:** Peg Mills, Joel Hersom, Joe Hirsch, Walter Buczacz, Karen Martel, Bertha Dawn, Kaye Horrigan and guest Lorraine. Absent: Liz DeSimone, Laura Overton, Michelle Hiltz, Bruce Martel.

Meeting called to order by Chair Peg Mills. Minutes taken by Karen Martel.

**Minutes** of April meeting approved unanimously (motion - Joel, 2<sup>nd</sup> Joe).

**Financials:** An informal review of SCG financials:

\$750 income listed for May was actually received in April, and includes rental fees and donations.

Expenditures for April and May were:

Four hoses: \$151.96

Wire fencing: 63.29

Pansies and potting soil: 19.15

We have received \$1,900 of local contributions toward our goal of \$2,500. Peg will continue to pursue this effort.

**Building Project Updates:**

**Shade Porch:** Evan Green, Eagle Scout candidate, has received State Boy Scout approval for the project. SCG will provide a gravel pad. Evan and other scouts will excavate for the footings, set the footings, and build the structure. The fence will need to be moved before the project begins.

**Fence:** Main Line Fence came in with the lowest estimate. The back fence will be moved 10 feet toward the rear. It will enclose the shed, the sun porch and the compost bins, as well as additional garden plots in the future.

**Accessible plot (#7):** Joe will follow up with Bear Hill regarding their donation of the material. SCG will be responsible for building the structure, which will be high enough to not require the gardener to bend over while tending it. Joe said that it's very unlikely that the project will be ready for this year's growing season.

**Volunteers and other business:**

Peg sent out a brief **newsletter** in snail mail to connect with all the renters.

Five volunteers have completed their hours, 11 others have partially completed their obligation, for a total of 51.8 hours completed.

The **shed** has been organized, and some tools were discarded.

**Stakes, tomato cages, and garden decorations** in the shed are available to gardeners on a first come-first serve basis. Any of these items that remain in the shed at the time of the July Ice Cream Social will be disposed of.

The **fabric walkways repairs** are continuing. Volunteers have been assigned to this project. It was noted that the landscape fabric in the shed is not to be used in individual gardens. Joe Hirsch provided another box of staples for the project. Peg will place them in the shed.

**Compost:** Bruce Martel added a limiter and permanent prop to each compost bin. We need brown material for the compost.

Jenny Lee created a “**Gardener of the Month**” sign.

There was a discussion of the pros and cons of **volunteers working for others**. The SCG Guidelines state that plot renters are required to volunteer a minimum of 3 hours each year.

It was noted that the **gate** had been left open at least once. Peg will replace the 'lock the gate' sign.

The **flower boxes** have been removed because they were deteriorating.

A motion was made by Joel that the **bat houses** be donated to the Saco Parks and Rec Dept. for use elsewhere. Joe seconded the motion, which passed unanimously, based on the fact that we have no suitable place to mount them.

**Ice Cream Social:** Joel is organizing this event, which will be held on July 13th. Musical entertainment was discussed. The budget will be \$25.00 or less, though this could be supplemented by CLYNK income if needed.

**CLYNK:** Karen has taken over the CLYNK account. We had \$41.50 in the account, minus \$5.00 for CLYNK bags, for a current balance of \$36.50. Bags were distributed at the meeting. There is a sign, bags and tags in the shed.

Karen will put information in the shed about the use of **floating row covers**, which can help keep pests off individual gardens, but still allow sun and moisture to permeate. They should not be used while plants are flowering. It was noted that fabric staples should not be used for the row covers. Rocks and/or soil can be use to keep them in place.

Joe reported that the **water** will be turned on by the end of next week.

Walter will be the **Garden Reviewer**, checking the garden on a regular basis for infractions of such rules as height restrictions or the gate being left open.

The Committee agreed on the May Gardener of the Month, Bobbie - Plot #42.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Next meeting, **June 8, 2017 at 6:30** at Saco Parks & Recreation.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Martel, Sec pro tem