

**Saco Community Garden
Steering Committee Meeting, August 10, 2017, Saco Rec
Minutes**

Present: Peg Mills, Joel Hersom, Bruce Martel, Michelle Hiltz, Walter Buczacz, Mary Dawn and Bertha Dawn. Bertha Dawn agreed to take minutes.

Peg Mills called the meeting to order.

Minutes of July meeting were accepted (Joel moved, Bruce seconded) by all present.

Peg relayed that beginning in September, Karen Martel is willing to serve as Recording Secretary to complete this season through March. Peg nominated Karen, Joel seconded, all present accepted.

Peg does not have a name for the empty Treasurer position and welcomes nominations.

Informal financials: Fence is paid for and came in under budget. Table was \$150 plus \$31 for paint and \$13 for plaque (overbudget). Sona tubes & Cement for the beginnings of the shade porch submitted for payment.

Joel reported Volunteer statistics: 18 renters have not yet volunteered, 17 renters have completed part of their 3 hour minimum, 14 renters have completed at least 3 hours. In July, volunteers contributed 24 hours of service to the garden. For the entire season, volunteers have given 105.5 hours. Thanks everyone!

Our popular and fun Potluck Harvest Dinner is scheduled for October 12 at Saco Rec Center. All renters & family members are encouraged to come and bring a dish to share. Joel and Michele will organize the details and volunteers for this.

Building projects status: Fence & repaired gates—done (although they didn't remove the old post stumps which may be a problem in the future), Table--done, painted & plaque attached, Porch—started with post holes dug and footings poured, waiting for wooden materials to be cut and delivered. Boy Scouts are buying the lumber from Leary's, and finally, Accessible Plot—cleared, heavier landscape fabric to come, Joe will order hemlock at 4" or maybe 6" dimension and ask Rotary to build the boxes for us.

While this season's projects are not all complete, Peg asked that officers start thinking about projects for next season. We now have room for more plots and what do we want? Consensus was NOT to build raised beds here, but instead create dug beds similar to what we have now. Also to have at least 2 of the beds set aside for Food Pantry growing and the rest of the new plots designated for regular rentals. Peg said that we need to think about fund-raising for this.

Officers nominated several beautiful plots for Gardener of the Month for August. Cynthia with Plot #37 got the most votes. Congratulations Cynthia!

Hoses continue to be a problem. Officers often find hoses undrained and/or wound up too tightly. We only have one spare hose in storage. Best practice: turn off faucet, fully drain hose while it is fully extended, loosely wind up the drained hose—in that order.

Erin Arey, a VISTA volunteer in Biddeford, approached Peg about starting a community garden in Biddeford on Sullivan Street. Peg met Erin and the landowner to advise them.

Bruce reported that some good lumber remaining from the compost bins has gone missing from the shed. He doesn't think we used it all.

It was suggested when we stake the corners of plots next year that we use taller stakes for safety and maybe put PVC pipe over the stakes to allow the hoses to move more smoothly.

Joel was asked to send a reminder to all the renters to keep pathways clear.

Peg asked if anyone under extreme conditions needs volunteer help with their plots, that they should contact her or another officer.

Because Peg will be out of town, Bruce will run the next meeting September 14th.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Bertha Dawn Sec pro tem
Peg Mills, transcriber