

Saco Community Garden Steering Committee Meeting
November 16, 2023
Minutes

1. Attending:
Peg Mills, John Saulle, Walter Buczac, Joel Hersom, Alex MacPhail, Amanda Mondor and Nancy Nelson.
2. No minutes from October because Peg can't find them. September minutes presented and approved.
3. Financials: Joel provided a detailed accounting: City account as of today=\$3,586, Bank account=\$409.55, and Clynk= about \$38. Our financial year begins in January. This year we collected \$1,525 in rents, took in \$114 interest, paid several bills including water bills for \$153.94 and \$92.52. We also paid an API of \$54.
4. Service hours were presented by Joel.
 - a. Renters without enough service hours: seven.
 - b. Renters who completed at least 2 hours: 48
 - c. Total service hours recorded: 154.44
5. Peg reported the uncleared plots: 3. Also, for various reasons, some renters have already reported to Peg that they are not coming back next year. Peg and Joel will finalize this info and report it to Saco Rec so they may have their records ready for January.
6. Closing activities went ok but there are still small clean-tasks to check. Peg bought new padlocks and will put them on the two gates and the shed for the winter. She will assign a code for the locks and report the new code to year-round gardeners, officers and Saco Parks staff.
7. Peg asked that officers be thinking about serving next season beginning in March. Also, think about renters who would like to join the steering committee. We will put together a nominating committee in January.
8. Because we added 5 new Year-round plots this year, we will need to change the guidelines, pamphlets and posters. Peg moved and John seconded that we also make the following changes to the guidelines: Do not plant mint in garden plots; renters may plant mint in containers only. And, change the 6' height restriction to absolute not just a suggestion. Motion passed.
9. Peg asked for suggestions to promote happy gardeners and an improved sense of community. Suggestions included: announced evenings of bring-your-own-supper, donuts and coffee in the morning of the official opening day, orientation for hoses and padlocks, reduce the rules (no one reads them), and financial prizes for gardener of the month. None of these ideas was voted on.

10. Adjourned. Next meeting at the Community Center on January 18, 2024 at 6:30pm. All welcome.

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year,
Submitted by Peg Mills, Sec pro tem