

Saco Community Garden Steering Committee Meeting  
April 7, 2022  
Minutes

1. Meeting was held in the 2nd floor meeting room at the Community Center, Franklin Street.  
Attendees: Joel Hersom, Karen Martel, Bruce Martel, Peg Mills, Tina Hooper, Nancy Nelson, Bill Marchie, Sue Marchie, John Saulle  
Absent officers: Linda Edgerton, Harry Nielson
2. Minutes of February and March--Peg  
Joel moved to accept the minutes, Karen seconded motion. Unanimously approved
3. Registration Ups & Downs—Peg  
Fully registered since the first week of March. SPR created a waiting list. Noticed two issues: two different people signed up for two plots. One lost the second plot, the second is in the daughter's name. SPR sent a spreadsheet of registrants, but it's missing phone numbers. Once the list is complete, the committee will ask for phone numbers and copy the recording secretary, VP, and volunteer coordinators.
4. Treasurer's report—Joel  
We haven't received anything from the city since the beginning of the new year. Joel was in contact with two people in SPR, and from now on, he will be going through Glinis (finance director). Joel has reports now through April 6th (yesterday). Joel has since received a bill from Harry for the gate and from Peg for the gift certificates. Joel will bring a summary paragraph to the monthly meeting to add to the minutes. Water bill is being charged every single month, even when water is not turned on. \$2236.45 funds available at the beginning of the fiscal year; the city says we have \$2237. Not bad!  
\$3172 as of 4/6/22.  
Clynx balance: \$173.46
5. Old Business  
Correct language in Guidelines—Bruce  
Syntax, language, and redundancy issues in the guidelines; Bruce is going to revise. Any suggestions can be sent to Bruce. Bruce asked for clarification from Peg regarding botanical insecticides; we are going to revisit and revise this piece.  
Reminder of Earth Day events--Peg  
Volunteer sign ups are on the website  
Spring Newsletter to be mailed—Peg & Karen  
Karen, with Pegs help, will be creating a newsletter to send out which will include an introduction to new members, including guidelines and bylaws. Newsletter is an opportunity to confirm plot numbers and will be a volunteer opportunity for production and mailing.  
Any suggestions or help welcome!

Nancy wondered if we could pull out the garden plot number stakes so they don't rot. Bruce suggested that it be a volunteer opportunity at the end of the season. Thank you, Harry for bird house cleaning, sign and gate

6. New Business—Hurrah—Happy Spring!!!

Volunteer Coordinator--Not Peg

Essentially takes the list of opportunities and emails gardeners. This is sometimes an easy task, and sometimes not so much. Harry has agreed to serve for one month only, from this meeting until the next meeting. Joel seconds it. Unanimously approved

Bruce could do the following month. We will vote next month.

a. What needs to be done before we open?

Bruce: at least 4 plots that need to be cleared. Fabric is coming up and needs to be stapled again. We have the fabric in the shed.

Peg: Change the locks, add the combo lock to the back gate and take the lock off the shed. Peg will contact SPR to turn on the water, sometimes it takes a while. Water station needs to be moved and filled up.

Nancy wondered why the water was turned off so early last year. Perhaps we can request that it not be turned off as early as last year. A change in administration might be the reason.

New hoses and spigots set out. Possibly have 2 hoses and need two more. We have 3 wands, and will purchase one more.

Starting flower beds that can be a volunteer activity.

Fence/gate/arch ideas—what do we want?

Waiting for another meeting down the road.

What about a chipper for compost? There was some discussion, but no firm decision.

Compost bins may need some repairs, posts at ground level. Bruce suggests using hemlock when repairing.

Let's look at the shape of the tools. Chopping tools may need sharpening.

Planting flowers in common areas—Peg

Peg has started some seedlings at her house to plant in SCG. The plan is to plant them in common areas:

- i. Morning glories and sweet peas along the shade.
- ii. Hanging baskets.
- iii. Possibly extras in front of the portapotty.
- iv. Marigolds along the front outside fence.

Plan will require more material for edging, expense. Would SPR have an issue mowing around these boxes, containers?

Covid safety this season?? Covid guidelines drafted in January.

Bruce suggests edit to #3, Use masks in the garden according to Maine CDC guidelines. Peg moves for change. John seconds. Unanimously approved.

7. Other new business.

When might the garden be open? Usually at the end of April, beginning of May. Peg would like to open the last day of April. April 30th will be a Saturday. May 7th also a suggestion. SGC needs to communicate to members that opening chores need to be

done before opening the garden. We also need the soil to be ready to plant. Aiming for the end of April or beginning of May.

8. Adjourn. Next meeting May 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 at Saco Community Center.