

Minutes 5/15/2024

Saco Community Garden

Saco Community Center

There were 12 members in attendance:

|                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Joel Hersom    | Nancy Nelson    |
| Walter Buczacz | Alan Mitchelson |
| Linda Edgerton | Karen Martel    |
| Bruce Martel   | Amanda Mondor   |
| Polly Gosselin | Peg Mills       |
| John Saulle    | Bertha Dawn     |

The minutes from April passed with one amendment.

The Volunteer Coordinator for May, Polly Gosselin, reported that several new renters came to the orientation to volunteering she held in the garden, and that all went well.

Joel Hersom presented the financial report:

No new expenses

Petty Cash has a balance of \$331.01 and the Clink account has \$72.25.

The Gardener of the Month for May is John Saulle, plot #39. Congratulations on a beautiful garden!

There were several topics discussed:

Opening day coffee and donuts. It was suggested that next year we ask Hannaford for a donation of coffee to keep expenses down.

The walkways have many dips in them due to compaction. It was discussed how to fill them in with the least amount of disturbance to the walks.

Amendments were added to all the plots this spring. Being this was accomplished over several days by different volunteers, it was suggested using colored stakes to mark each plot and pulling it when each plot received the amendments. Also, if a renter wanted to, they should have the opportunity to opt out.

The main gate needs to be fixed or replaced. Peg Mills had a quote from Anchor Fence for a 10' gate at \$1,700. A compromise was suggested that we build it ourselves with posts set in concrete and reusing the old gates. It was also suggested that we use pavers under the gate to level the ground so there isn't a big gap underneath. Peg Mills presented a motion, seconded by Karen Martel, that we put in ground contact bearing pressure treated posts set in concrete and use the old gates with Anchor doing the labor and construction. The motion passed unanimously.

Thank you, John, for planting the baskets of pansies!

It was decided that the climbing flowers for the sun porch this year will be nasturtiums, runner beans, and morning glories.

Statistics for the 2 hours Volunteer Service:

|             |          |
|-------------|----------|
| Completed   | 7 plots  |
| Partial     | 8 plots  |
| Not started | 41 plots |

Polly Gosselin offered to be the Volunteer Coordinator for June.

Peg Mills is researching the possibility of having a tool sharpening workshop. Either asking Rob Moody from Moody's Nursery to teach it, or have someone learn how to do it and teach it ourselves.

There are a few reminders for the renters:

The seasonal plots should not be planted with perennials.

Make sure you turn off the water and depressurize the hoses before coiling them on the holders.

Please lock the gate if you are the last one to leave the garden. One plot had a trellis taken, and a broken syringe needle was found in another plot.

It was suggested that we plant some raspberry bushes along the back fence. After some discussion, it was decided to table this until next month's meeting.

Under other business, concerns were raised about PFAS chemicals. It was reported that the Portland community garden had to close on this account. Peg Mills will investigate calling MAFCA, who tests for PFAS.

A motion to adjourn was made by Bruce Martel, seconded by Polly Gosselin, and unanimously passed.

The next meeting will be June 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at the Community Center on Franklin Street.