

Saco Community Garden Steering Committee Meeting October 12, 2021
Minutes

Present: Officers: Peg Mills, Bruce Martel, John Saulle, Walter Buczacz, Harry Nielson, Renters: Patricia Wright, Risto Tomic. Officers Joel Hersom, Linda Edgerton, and Karen Martel were excused. Officers Aggi Dellevoet and Theia Murphy Dean have resigned their positions.

Chair Peg Mills called the meeting in the Garden at 6pm. A quorum was met with 5 officers present.

Minutes of the July meeting were approved (Harry moved, John seconded). Since the August meeting was the Ice Cream Social and the September meeting had no quorum, this brings us up to date with our meetings.

Peg recited volunteer information by listing all the renters who had not completed any hours or only 1 half hour. She explained that she had emailed and/or call these folks and only some renters had responded to her.

Officers voted Plot #33, Maarta, as Gardener of the Month. Congrats, Maarta! We really like your elephant ear plant!

Old Business:

1) Since the shed is not fully painted and cold weather is approaching, Peg suggested she take all the paint supplies home for storage. Harry suggested leaving the supplies another week in case he has time to make some progress. Peg also noted that she bought window putty to redo the windows per Bruce's suggestion. Bruce explained that the window repairs should be done in the spring.

2) Volunteers have worked on the compost to the point that Bin #4 is empty and Bin #2 is starting to fill up with chopped greens from Bin #1. Peg will add some chopped maple leaves from home in Bin #2 to add some brown material. Now, more chopping of Bin #1 material turned into Bin #2 is needed, and contents of Bin #3 need to be turned into Bin #4. Risto said he could work on the compost. Others need to pitch in, too! At the end of the season, we know that Bins #1, #2 and #3 will be brimming full but this will only fit if more chopping and turning is done now.

3) Peg reported that 14 people came to the Ice Cream Social, ate wrapped ice cream treats and viewed the gardens. While Peg distributed invite flyers to the neighborhood, only renters showed up. Excess ice cream was delivered to the Fire Station.

New Business:

1) The harvesting and weeding of plots look pretty bad this year. Peg suggested many new renters are not well-informed about the garden dos and don'ts. She suggested that next year we have two printed newsletters that are mailed to renters—we can afford it. Others present agreed.

Bruce pointed out that these Covid seasons have been more difficult and we're doing a pretty good job. Everyone thanked Karen for sending out the current email Newsletter—it looks great!

2) Saco Parks & Rec staff have asked that we have a rental deadline of May 31st. That is, no money or formal registrations will be processed after May 31st. Harry so moved and Bruce seconded. Passed. Peg will rewrite the Guidelines and send to Bruce for checking. Peg will inform SPR.

3) SPR Director Ryan Sommer informed Peg that the water will be shut off soon. As soon as the water is shut off, we will notify the renters. It was also suggested that renters be informed of the pending shut off.

4) We remind renters that all seasonal plots must be fully cleared out by Dusk on Sunday, November 14th. Year-round renters must have their plots tidy by this date. Renters whose plots are not cleared or who haven't completed 2 hours of volunteering will not be allowed to rent next season.

5) Bruce moved and John seconded that we change the Bylaws to allow up to 10 officers. Passes unanimously.

6) Bruce moved and Harry seconded that we change the quorum rule in our Bylaws. If the Steering Committee consists of 10 officers, a quorum for meetings is 5. If the Steering Committee consists of 8 or less officers, a quorum for meeting is 4. Passed 4, 1 against. Peg will write up the draft changes and Bruce will review.

7) Since we have failed to find anyone to serve as Recording Secretary, Peg volunteered to serve as Recording Secretary for the remainder of the year. All in favor.

8) Renter Davis Martinec offered 5 grape vines to the garden. All agreed to accept these.

9) Meeting adjourned. **Our next and last meeting of 2021 will be on Tuesday, November 9th at Peg's (168 Simpson Rd.). Everyone must be fully inoculated to attend. NO MEETING IN DECEMBER.**

Respectfully submitted,
Peg Mills
Recording Sec.