

**Saco Community Garden  
Steering Committee Meeting Agenda  
Saco Community Center, Room 203  
Wednesday, February 12, 2020, 6:30 pm**

Present: Walter Buczacz, Theia Murphy, James Murphy, Joel Hersom, Bruce Martel, Karen Martel, Peg Mills, Nancy Nelson, Laurie Thompson, Laura Williams Absent: Michelle Hiltz, Bruce Arral. Joel left at 7:40.

Bruce Martel convened the meeting at 6:30 pm. Introductions were made.

**Minutes of January meeting:** Peg made a motion, Joel seconded, to accept the minutes with a correction to the meeting date (January vs. November). Passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's report** Peg reported no changes from the last report. The CLYNK balance is \$143.84.

**Rentals:** Bruce reported that 3 plots plus #7 are available as of today: #46 47, 31. Joel spoke with the Age Friendly Saco coordinator as well as the Saco Community Center Seniority Director and Erica about the availability of Plot #7. There was no definite interest. Karen will put a press release in the Courier about the remaining plots, and information about the accessible plot. Bruce will be the contact for more info about renting that plot.

### **Volunteers**

Pre-season tasks

- 1) Remove stakes and fabric to prepare for rototilling
- 2) Set fabric and stakes after soil amendments and rototilling. There was a discussion of the results of soil testing from last fall. Peg has purchased the soil amendments, which are in the shed.
- 3) Refurbish plot #7. May need compost or added topsoil.

### **Building/repair projects next season**

- a) Front gate (will hire out)
- b) Broken fence posts (will hire out. May get assistance from the City) Discussed treated lumber for replacement posts rather than cedar. James Murphy discussed additions to pressure treated wood that are innocuous to soil. Bruce will contact Ryan about other Parks and Rec fencing jobs in the spring. General agreement on the concept of using pressure treated posts.
- c) Replace two spigot supports. The wood (hemlock) is in the shed.

## **Old business**

a) Bylaws Revisions. Peg made a motion to accept the Bylaw changes that Bruce proposed. Joel seconded the motion. Passed unanimously with no discussion.

b) Guidelines Revisions. Peg made motion and Joel seconded to accept two of the Guideline revisions that Bruce proposed with the following amendments:

Section 5:

add the following:

e) pets not allowed in the garden (inadvertently omitted from latest draft.

f) Garden security is essential. Gardeners are encouraged to get to know their neighbors. The last gardener to leave must lock the gate(s) .

Following discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Peg made a motion and Theia seconded that typos may be fixed without further approval, including replacing the word 'Guidelines' with the word 'Bylaws' in section 15. a) Passed unanimously.

Section 13 b) Peg made a motion to delete the sentence "Attendance at meeting does not qualify as volunteer time for other gardeners." Joel seconded the motion. A lively discussion ensued as to the interpretation of the word 'active' in the section, and whether members-at-large fulfill their volunteer hours by serving on the Steering Committee without additional assignments. The motion was defeated five for, two opposed.

Section 13 b) Peg made a motion for new wording in this section as follows: Being an officer of the SCG steering Committee fulfills the volunteer requirement of a plot renter. Attendance at meetings does not otherwise qualify as volunteer hours. Laurie seconded the motion. Another lively discussion ensued. Peg said that when applying for grants, as the SCG has done in the past, volunteer hours are often used as a criteria of community participation. Officers should be encouraged to list hours spent on SCG business outside Steering Committee meetings as additional volunteer work.

The motion carried four for, one opposed, one abstained.

## **New business**

The Nominating committee. Laurie reported on the proposed slate of officers to be presented for voting at the annual meeting.

Chair - Peg Mills  
Vice Chair - Joel Hersom  
Treasurer - Laura Williams  
Secretary- Michelle Hiltz  
Communications Secretary- Karen Martel  
Bruce Arral - Member at Large  
Walter Buczacz - Member at Large  
Bruce Martel - Member at Large  
Laurie Thompson - Member at Large  
Open - - Member at Large

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A discussion took place about role of Treasurer, purchase orders for large orders, and reimbursement from the City for purchases.

Budget: Peg presented an updated budget. She noted Bruce's cost estimate of the Fabric for paths which is as follows:

2 rolls @ \$206 + \$37 shipping = \$486 (Johnny's)

2) ~1200 linear feet of path: ~1200 staples (every 2', on both sides of path). \$42 for box of 500 (Johnny's) = \$126. With fabric: \$612.

3) Corner stakes: do we need pointy ones? Ground is soft. 55 plots, 4 stakes @ 2' per plot = 55 x 8' = 440 linear feet of stakes. \$150 – \$175 if ripped from 1" x 6" (true dimension) cedar boards. With fabric and stakes, ~\$775 for paths and plots.

Based on this, Peg suggested further changes to the budget. Karen made a motion, Laurie seconded to accept Peg's changes. The motion passed unanimously. The budget will be voted on at the annual meeting.

James Murphy volunteered to cut 220 1'x1'x2ftstakes for the gardens

Laura Williams volunteered to go to Johnny's to pick up fabric, saving \$74 in shipping charges.

The next meeting will be the annual meeting on March 18, 5:30 pm at Koi Oriental Cuisine. Gardeners will be encouraged to bring extra gardening books, leaflets, catalog, etc. to share. Many thanks to Nancy Nelson for donating a basket for a door prize. Karen will purchase door prizes.

The meeting adjourned at 8:14