

**Saco Community Garden
Regular Meeting
September 11, 2019
Saco Community Center**

Present: Walter Buczacz, Joel Hersom, Bruce Martel, Karen Martel, Peg Mills, Courtney Norris, Bruce Arral, Laurie Thompson, Absent: Michelle Hiltz

Bruce Martel called the meeting to order at 6:32.

The Secretary's Report was distributed. Peg corrected the spelling of Ryan Sommer's name. Joel made a motion to accept the Secretary's Report as presented, Laurie seconded, the motion carried.

Peg presented the **Treasurer's Report**. We have about \$2400 in our account with the City. We had budgeted spending \$3400 for the budget year that began in December. We have saved on not needing to replace hoses, not mailing the newsletter, and other projects. Peg suggests spending money on the compost bin improvements, fixing the gate, soil amendments, pest control, or other projects. The CLYNK account has \$100.14. Peg ordered a roll of landscape fabric for \$198.

Volunteers. Joel reported that someone again listed sweeping the pathway as a volunteer activity. He will let them know that the time listed did not count. He will put a notice in the book reminding all gardeners that sweeping is not a volunteer activity.

Volunteer tally as of September 1:

No volunteer hours: 20

Hours partially completed: 12

Completed: 17

total 78.2 hours logged

Building/repair projects:

The spigot has been replaced. Bruce suggested that it would be easier to replace the posts before they rot. It was also suggested that it would be best to replace them when the water is turned off.

Karen made a motion that we replace the one or two posts that are old. Laurie seconded the motion. Bruce M., Bruce A., Walter and Joel will tackle the project. Cedar 4x4 is the recommended material.

The shade porch is complete.

Front gate repair. Bruce will contact Ryan about City parameters. The posts are wobbly and out of square and gates don't line up. Both front gates need to be replaced.

The siding on the shed is loosening, and the doors are starting to rot at the bottom. Bruce suggested that this is something to think about for the future. The siding needs to be stained again. Peg will check on the stain supply in the shed and report via e-mail.

Old Business:

We are planning to replace all fabric between the plots except the center path. Peg bought one 4ft x 250 ft. roll of 5 mil. woven fabric. Some paths may need to be evened. Rotor tilling of the entire garden was discussed. Will discuss at next meeting.

The website had 129 visits last month. The compost video was posted and is very good.

Gardener of the Month: #42 Kate B.

Member at Large vacancy: Peg asked one person who declined.

Compost: bin #4 is almost empty. Bruce sent out an e-mail about next steps. #1 will need to be empty for end-of-season materials.

Ground hog: Walter took care blocking the hole. No other hole found.

Accessible plot #7: Bruce sent an e-mail to the gardener who is renting the plot that we will be returning the plot to it's original use as an accessible plot, and that if they would like a regular plot, he will make sure that they get one for next year.

#18 appears to have been abandoned. Bruce sent an e-mail inquiry. If no response, that gardener will not be eligible to return next year.

Many plots have unharvested tomatoes, and a several have crops that are growing out of bounds. Bruce sent letters to the gardeners. If no response about unharvested crops, Bruce will send a followup e-mail that the plot would be available for gleanng.

New Business:

A lively discussion ensued about handling our own registrations and money. There have been issues communicating with Parks and Rec and about handling the waiting list, and also with the City about accessing our funds.

Karen gave information about the cost of taking online payments, and also about the work involved in setting it up and managing it. Next year the cost will be \$240/year for the site that we have (up from \$180/year), plus \$20/year for the domain name. We can add a shopping cart system to our current site for an additional \$60/year, plus PayPal fees (.30 a transaction plus 2.9% of sales. She estimated the total would be about \$370/year. Setting up and managing the system would take quite a bit of time.

Peg brought up the idea of pursuing non-profit status and handling our own money. Peg reported that the City auditor has been helpful. We will revisit this topic at November or January meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00

The next meeting will be on October 9, 2019, 6:30 pm, at the Saco Community Center.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Martel, acting recording secretary