

Saco Community Garden  
Steering Committee Meeting Agenda  
Community Center, Room 203  
Wednesday, April 10, 2019, 6:30

Present: Walter Buczacz, Joel Hersom, Bruce Martel, Karen Martel, Michelle Hiltz, Epona Savage, Courtney Norris, Bruce Arral, Debbie Neilson, Harry Neilson, Bertha Dawn, Peg Mills, Nancy Nelson

Bruce Martel called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Bruce made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting, Peg seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved

Peg gave the treasurer's report. She has met with the city finance director and was presented with the city figures ending in July of 2018 and July of 2019. There were no monthly figures available. The city numbers do not match the numbers we have but we are not in danger of overspending.

**Building Projects:**

-Lattice for finishing the shade porch- Peg will work on organizing this project and will present the details for getting this project done at the next meeting. We will need to give a heads up to the Parks and Rec people regarding our intentions to ensure that we are not violating any of their rules. She proposed paying someone to do it. It is an odd dimension and may come out better with a professional doing the project.

-Tool Rack- We would like to have safer tool racks. The current one is dangerous as tools have fallen from it and struck people. Bruce will look into this and will provide more information at the next meeting for creating a safer tool rack.

Compost- We will look into a better system for displaying the buckets with compost from the bin.

New Plots- There is room for a partial row (7 plots). We have contracted with someone (Moody's) to do this project. We will need to wait for the ground to dry before beginning so that the ground is not ruined. We are hoping to do it this year but it may not be til into the summer and not available to rent this year. Moody's will coordinate with the Parks & Rec Director (Ryan Sommer) about digging the new plots.

Front Gate- The front gate continues to deteriorate and will need to be addressed this year. The Bruces will look at it, compare notes, and report back at the next meeting.

## **New Business:**

Garden Opening Day- It is still unclear when this will be. It is currently not ready but we anticipate that it will be within the next month. It still needs to dry out a bit.

There are two coordinator positions open, A volunteer coordinator and an activities coordinator. Bruce M. is willing to do some of it but would like someone else to share the responsibility. Joel offered to take on the position. Epona formally nominated Joel as volunteer coordinator, Bruce A seconded, all others were in favor. No opposing. The activities coordinator will be Michelle. Bruce M. nominate, Epona seconded, all in favor.

## **Bylaws-**

The food pantry is no longer in need of veggies from the garden. They get an abundance from other sources. Peg made a motion to adjust bylaws and guidelines to remove mention of the food pantry, Karen seconded, unanimously approved.

OMRI and MOFGA- have standards for organic gardening. It would be nice to reference and adopt official standards. Peg will look into this further.

Karen will look into rewording of the "good neighbor" rule

Newsletter- The newsletter will be online. It is free to do and can be sent out at anytime. Karen will include a picture of each board member so that they are recognizable to other gardeners.

Earth Day- Saco is having an Earth Day event. We would like to have a table to build community awareness and to offer information. We will have pamphlets available and an article on soil. It will occur the Saturday after Easter on April 27th from 1-3pm. For those interested, there is also a morning activity of cleaning up Saco parks from 9-12

Library Yard Sale- The Dyer Library is having a huge yard sale on June 22. They rent tables for \$25. Michelle will get more information and report at the next meeting

## **Volunteering**

Paths- We have plenty of fabric to use and do not need to buy more. Ron and Rachel Bolduc will make any needed fixes.

Level Raised Beds- They may be okay. Bruce will check them out. If any soil is needed it will be minimal and could be taken care of with a couple of bags of organic soil

Staking out plot corners- The group agreed that we do not need to stake the plots this year

The next meeting will be on May 8th. It is tentatively scheduled to be at the Community Center, room 203 but if the weather permits it we may hold it at the garden.