

BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY

Minutes of the Annual Reorganization Meeting Shrewsbury Community Garden Committee (SCGC) Historical Society Bldg, 419 Sycamore Avenue, Shrewsbury, New Jersey 07702 13 January 2014

Ms. MacNeill opened the meeting at 6:30 PM with the reading of the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken.

Present:

Pam MacNeill	Tim Thomas	Maureen Collins (joined meeting at 6:40)
Della Benevides	Pat Pellegrino	Fred Preissler
Nancy Schmaltz	Tina Behr	Betsy Wattley
Tony Pellegrino (Boro Council liaison)		

OFFICER'S STATEMENT Ms. MacNeill announced that this was the annual reorganization meeting of the Shrewsbury Community Garden Committee (SCGC.) She reviewed the current appointments for Chairperson, Assistant Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. It was approved that Pam MacNeill, Tim Thomas, Della Benevides and Pat Pellegrino respectively, will continue in these positions for 2014. Ms. Schmaltz and Mr. Preissler will continue as Garden Liaisons. Ms. Tina Behr was introduced as a new member of the Committee, replacing William Gerth who completed his tenure in December 2013. Mr. Tony Pellegrino was introduced as the Boro Council liaison, replacing Tom Menapace who retired from the Council at the end of 2013. This concluded the reorganization portion of the meeting.

Ms. MacNeill then covering topics of information for committee members:

Plaque for Shed Ms. MacNeill said that she had a certificate of appreciation to be presented to Matt Kowalski at the Annual Gardeners' Meeting for his work in the building of the shed for the Community Garden. Matt planned and coordinated this project as part of his requirements to attain Eagle Scout status. Ms. MacNeill then said she would like to get the approval of the committee to have a plaque mounted on the shed to document Matt's contribution to the Community Garden. It was voted on and approved to spend up to \$75 for the plaque. Ms. Pellegrino will make the purchase and will also attend Matt's Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony at which time she will present the plaque to him.

Out of Town Policy Ms. MacNeill then related a conversation she had had with Karen Lloyd, a Boro Hall clerk and also a community gardener. Ms. Lloyd was previously a Shrewsbury resident but has recently moved to another township. Ms. Lloyd had asked her if this would mean she would lose her legacy status. Ms. MacNeill asked the Boro if members thought it appropriate to allow her to keep her legacy plot in light of the significant support the Boro admin staff gives the Community Garden. After some discussion committee members agreed that as a non-resident, Ms. Lloyd could not retain her legacy status. However, in appreciation of the contributions she has made to the community garden in her work as a Boro clerk, it was decided to give Ms. Lloyd her current plot again if it is available when out of town applications are accepted.

Cleanup of Plots Ms. MacNeill stated that she had had numerous emails with several gardeners regarding the condition of their plots at the end of the gardening season. Rules and Regulations say that

plot must be cleaned and free of plants, weeds and garden structures at the end of the season in order for owners to be guaranteed a plot for the next season. One gardener in particular had questioned her stating that he felt his plot was cleaned and that it was not possible for him to do any more since he would not return from Florida until June. Ms. MacNeill asked committee members how they felt this should be handled. It was decided that since the gardener in question was a non-resident he would be told that out of town applications were not yet being accepted and when they were his name would be placed on the waiting list. He would also be reminded that plots must be maintained from the opening to the closing of the garden season (mid-March through November) and planted by 1 July. The gardener may not be able to fulfill this requirement since he will not be in Shrewsbury until June. A final decision regarding his status will be made at a later date.

North Fence Line Ms. MacNeill said that she had received a request from Mayor Don Burden for the garden committee to reconsider the idea of some type of planting along the fence line visible to motorists on Sycamore Avenue. Mr. Burden stated that although no one had questioned the viability of the garden he had received complaints from residents who felt the community garden fence was an eyesore and took away from the “pastoral setting of the fields” in front of the Municipal Building. He asked the committee to think about some way to buffer of view of the north fence line by passing motorists. Mr. Burden also said that one comment from a Little Silver council member likened the fence an “old prison compound.” Mr. Thomas said that the committee had never made a decision not soften the fence line with plants or trees. Ms. Collins reminded the committee that a stumbling block continued to be the what type of plants would be low cost, minimum maintenance, and deer resistant. In addition, the question would then arise as to who would maintain the area. Since in is not within the garden itself, upkeep could possibly fall onto DPW. Ms. Schmaltz also said that security would also be an issue if visibility into the garden were to be blocked. The decision was made to table further discussion until the February meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Minutes for the 9 December 2013 meeting were reviewed and approved.

TREASURER’S REPORT Community Garden Trust Fund had an opening balance of \$2,725.55. Two expenses were paid out, garden supplies (\$58.84) and Honorarium for Annual Garden Meeting speaker (\$200), leaving a closing balance of \$2,466.71. Open Space Trust Fund balance of \$2,910.79 remained unchanged for the month.

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC Ms. MacNeill opened the meeting to the public. Ms. Collins asked if it would be possible publish information about garden plot registration via the text alerts that are sent out to Boro residents. Ms. Lloyd, Boro clerk who was present in the audience, said that these alerts are costly and police try to limit the use to emergency information. Meeting was then closed to the public.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 PM. An informal Annual Meeting for all current and prospective gardeners followed the reorganization meeting at 7:30 PM in the Historical Society Bldg.

NEXT MEETING Scheduled for 10 February 2014, 7:00 PM, Municipal Building, Shrewsbury, NJ.

Della Benevides, Secretary, SCGC