

BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY

Shrewsbury Community Garden Committee (SCGC)

Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting

Historical Society Building, 419 Sycamore Avenue, Shrewsbury, NJ 07702
October 14th, 2019

Present:

Pam MacNeill

Tina Behr

Pat Mahon

Della Benevides

Betsy Wattlely

Stu Minis

Gail Forrest

Kim Doran Eulner (Council Liaison)

Absent:

Tom Menapace

Judith Reuter

Ms. MacNeill opened the meeting at 11:00 a.m. with the salute to the flag. Ms. MacNeill thanked all the committee members for their help with the Harvest Fest. Ms. MacNeill thanked Ms. Benevides for the collage she posted on Facebook of the Harvest Fest. Ms. MacNeill also thanked Ms. Reuter for her review of the Harvest Fest which was published in the Two River Times.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes. Ms. Behr made a motion to approve the September 2019 minutes of the SCGC meeting and this was seconded by Ms. Benevides.

Correspondence. Ms. MacNeill noted she had no correspondence other than RSVPs to the Harvest Fest.

Treasurer's Report. Mr. Menapace was not present at the meeting however, Ms. MacNeill read the report that Mr. Menapace prepared. As of September 16th, 2019, there was a balance of \$11,455.75. There was no new income. There were 3 offset payments. One payment was to Ms. Wattlely for paper products for the Harvest Fest which amounted to \$32.89, The second payment was to Ms. MacNeill for trash bags. This amounted to \$25.98. The final payment was to Ms. Mahon for the purchase of Mason Jars used to hold flowers for the Harvest Fest. This amounted to \$11.99. The total offsets were \$70.86. This left a final balance of \$11,384.89. Ms. Wattlely made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and this was seconded by Ms. Behr.

Meeting Opened to the Public. The meeting was opened to the public and closed to the public as no one was in attendance.

Old Business.

-Errant Gardeners: Ms. Behr informed the committee that 2 individuals were leaving the garden on their own accord due to difficulties in maintaining their plots. Ms. Behr will follow up with them to confirm their decision. Ms. Behr also noted that 3 gardeners received 4 or more notifications throughout the growing season and suggested these individuals be asked to surrender their plots for the next growing season, as per the Rules and Regulations. That decision was made based on the vast number of notifications they received and the lack of remediation of the infractions. The SCGC agreed with Ms. Behr's recommendation. Ms. Behr will send out the notifications after the fall clean up work day. Ms. Behr also discussed 3 additional individuals who has 4 or more notifications this year. The committee discussed these individuals and decided that 2 of gardeners should be allowed back next year due to extenuating circumstances in their lives. The decision on the remaining gardener was tabled until the next meeting. If the gardener fails to comply with the fall clean up guidelines, then the committee will ask that person to surrender his/her plot for the next season.

New Business.

-Recap of Harvest Fest/plans for next year: Many of the committee members felt that the timing of the Harvest Fest should be extended. The time set for this year was from 4-6pm, however, considering how much time it takes to set up and break down the event, the committee agreed to extend next year's event by an hour. The new time will be from 4-7 pm. It was also suggested to change the date of the party to sometime in October when the temperatures may not be as oppressive as they were this year. The committee agreed to aim for a date in early October next year. Ms. Wattlely informed the committee that the mix up with the folding tables has been solved. The SCG owns six 6-foot tables, not the 4-foot tables we had assumed belonged to the garden. These 6-foot tables are currently housed in the shed. Ms. Benevides volunteered to place labels on the tables. Ms. MacNeill volunteered to prepare a sign-up sheet which will be placed near the tables. Should anyone want to use these tables, they should contact Ms. MacNeill prior to taking them and fill out the sign-up sheet accordingly.

-Closing of garden/fall clean-up/community work day: The committee discussed the need for a community work day for the fall clean up. Attendees will be asked to help move the umbrella, tools and wheelbarrows back in the shed for winter storage. Hoses will be drained, wands will be disconnected and stored in the shed. In addition, any remaining mulch will be spread on the paths. The committee set a date of Saturday, Nov 16th at 11am for the workday. The rain date is Sunday, Nov 17th at 11am. Ms. MacNeill will notify gardeners via an email of the work day and ask that all plots be cleared prior to the workday. Anyone who is overwintering should contact Ms. MacNeill directly with that information. Ms. Benevides asked Ms. MacNeill to mention that this is a good opportunity for anyone who has not fulfilled his/her obligation to work community workdays, to do so now. Ms. Eulner agreed to contact DPW to determine when the water will be shut off.

-Agenda/speaker for annual meeting: It was determined that the annual meeting will be held on Jan 13th, 2020 at 7pm. The committee discussed potential speakers for the annual meeting. Past as well as new speakers were proposed, but the decision was tabled until our November meeting. In the meantime, our master gardeners will gather information on potential speakers they have in mind.

Open discussion: Ms. MacNeill noted that the walk way to the garden had been recently weeded by DPW. The SCGC was under the assumption that we were responsible for maintaining the path. Ms. MacNeill asked Ms. Eulner to check with DPW to determine who is responsible for the path maintenance. Ms. Eulner agreed to do so.

Unrelated to the SCG, Ms. Eulner informed the committee that the Shrewsbury Homesteaders are interested in recruiting new members. Ms. Eulner provided a brief overview of the meetings and outlined some of the activities the group has planned. She agreed to send additional information to anyone interested.

Adjournment. Ms. Forrest made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:05. This was seconded by Ms. Benevides. All approved

Next Meeting. The next meeting will be held at the Shrewsbury Historical Society Building on November 11th at 11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Forrest