

# **BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY**

## **Shrewsbury Community Garden Committee (SCGC)**

Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting  
Municipal Building, 419 Sycamore Avenue, Shrewsbury, New Jersey 07702  
11 November 2014

Ms MacNeill opened the meeting at 7:00 PM with the reciting of Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Present:**

Pam MacNeill	Nancy Schmaltz
Betsy Wattley	Tim Thomas
Tina Behr	Della Benevides
Maureen Collins	Fred Preissler (joined meeting at 7:05 PM)
Mayor Don Burden	

### **Absent:**

Pat Pellegrino  
Tony Pellegrino

**Officer's Statement** Ms MacNeill said that she had no opening statement.

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes** Minutes of the October meeting were approved.

**Correspondence** Ms MacNeill read a letter she had received from the Mayor Don Burden in which he expressed his appreciation to the Shrewsbury Community Garden Committee (SCGC) members for their participation in the Shrewsbury Community Day on 18 October. The mayor said it was very successful and that was due largely to the support and enthusiasm of the Borough organizations that took part in the planning, organization and execution of the event.

**Treasurer's Report** Ms MacNeill gave report due to the absence of the treasurer, Ms Pellegrino. No activity was reported during the previous month leaving the balances of the Open Space Trust Fund (\$2,549.36) and Community Garden Trust Fund (\$3,957.27) unchanged.

**Meeting Opened to the Public** There were no members of the public in attendance. Meeting was then closed to the public.

### **Old Business**

**A. Rules and Regulations** Ms Collins said that she had made the two changes that were discussed at the October meeting. The first concerned warnings to gardeners. The new verbiage states that gardeners must notify the SCGC chairperson or liaison in the event of his/her inability to initiate or maintain his/her assigned plot. In such case the plot will be surrendered and reassigned. Also, if a gardener receives multiple warnings concerning the condition of his/her plot within the growing season the matter will be brought before the SCGC for disposition and may result in the gardener's surrender of the plot for the remainder of the growing season. Ms Wattley questioned whether or not the number of warnings should be articulated in the Rules and Regulations. Ms MacNeill confirmed that Mr. Barger, Borough Attorney, felt that the policy should be clearly stated so that gardeners were well aware of the specifics of the warning system. At the October meeting committee members had been in agreement that after three warnings the plot owner would be invited to come

to the next committee meeting to discuss the issue and if the problem continued after five warnings the plot owner would lose his/her plot and plot legacy. Discussion revolved around the exact wording that should be used, whether or not plots would be taken away during mid-season or only for the next year, and what the criteria were for a warning to be generated. A preliminary vote of the committee determined that members agreed that the change could incorporate plots being taken away during a current season. Committee agreed that verbiage would state “if a plot owner/household receives five warnings during a growing season, said gardener would not be eligible for a plot the following year.” Committee also agreed that a sheet explaining the consequences of not complying with the rules and regulations and the warning process would be included in the registration packet given out at the Annual Gardener Meeting each January.

Mr. Preissler questioned whether this policy would be put into effect for the gardeners who did not comply during the 2014 season. Ms MacNeill said that the guidance received from Mr. Barger indicated that the committee was within its rights to determine that a plot owner would be not eligible for a plot in 2015.

Ms Behr indicated that there were 4-5 Shrewsbury residents who had received 5 or more warnings would thus be ineligible based on current discussion. Question arose as to how these gardeners would be notified of their ineligibility. Committee voted and agreed that gardeners should be notified by letter prior to the January Annual Gardener Meeting that their plot ownership would be revoked for 2015. Mr. Thomas then asked if or how a gardener could appeal the committee’s decision. Another lengthy discussion ensued. Committee members thought that the letter should include a statement saying gardener could come to the next meeting to discuss the issue if the decision was unacceptable. Some committee members felt that it was not clear in the 2014 rules and regulations that a gardener would lose his/her plot for the next season due to non-compliance with the rules and regulations. Upon further discussion it was voted to rescind the previous motion to notify gardeners that their plot eligibility was being revoked for the 2015 season. This specific issue will be put on the agenda for December. Agenda will be emailed to all gardeners.

Ms Collins then said that the second change she made to the rules and regulations was a sentence that informed the gardeners of the need to provide an email address/phone number so that he/she could be kept informed of the Community Garden news and events. This change was not disputed.

**B. Fall Cleanup Day and Individual Plot Cleanups** Ms MacNeill outlined the tasks that needed to be completed at the cleanup day—storage of hoses, benches, tools, sunshade etc. She also said that the Mayor had offered the second floor of the Historical Building for storage if necessary. Cleanup day was set for 15 November at 1:00 PM. Email will be sent out to gardeners. Ms MacNeill said that she would also include a statement stating that individual plots should also be cleaned out by this date with the exception of any fall/winter crops.

**C. 2015 Annual Gardeners’ Meeting Agenda** Ms. Collins said that she had attended a workshop at Mumford’s restaurant and spoke with the owner, Chris Mumford. He

indicated that he would be willing to come to the January meeting as the guest speaker if his schedule allowed. She will check back with him before the next meeting to determine whether or not this will be a possibility.

Ms Collins also suggested Barbara Landreth, owner of Landreth Seed Company, as another possible speaker if Chris Mumford was not available.

### **New Business**

**A. New Business** Ms Schmaltz said that she had received an email from the Garden Writers' Association asking how much produce the Community Garden had donated to a food pantry as part of the PAR program. PAR (Plant a Row) was an initiative of the Garden Writers' Association. She asked if committee could give an idea of the poundage given over the season. Committee decided that 983 pounds would be a fairly accurate estimate of the pounds donated to Lunch Break based on the 3+ deliveries a week over the growing season.

Ms Schmaltz also related that she had received some informational literature from the organization **Easy from Seed** that she would make available for the January meeting.

**Adjournment** Ms MacNeill closed the meeting by reminding everyone to think about gardeners that could make good committee member candidates since two, possibly three, current members will not be returning in 2015.

Motion was made and approved to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 PM.

**Next Meeting** The next regular monthly meeting will be on 8 December at 7:00 PM.

Della Benevides  
Secretary, SCGC