

BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY

Shrewsbury Community Garden Committee (SCGC)

Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting

Historical Society Building, 419 Sycamore Avenue, Shrewsbury, NJ 07702
September 16th, 2019

Present:

Pam MacNeill
Tina Behr
Pat Mahon
Della Benevides
Tom Menapace
Betsy Wattle
Stu Minis
Gail Forrest

Absent:

Kim Doran Eulner (Council Liaison)
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 in anticipation of their help with the Harvest Fest. Ms. MacNeill thanked Ms. Benevides for maintaining the Shrewsbury Community Garden Facebook page. Ms. MacNeill also thanked the PAR representatives (Benevides, Wattle, Mahon) for maintaining the PAR plots and harvesting crops for donation to the Monmouth Day Care.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes. Mr. Menapace made a motion to approve the August 2019 minutes of the SCGC meeting and this was seconded by Mr. Minis.

Correspondence. Ms. MacNeill noted her correspondence was primarily regarding Harvest Fest responses. To date, 37 gardeners have responded positively. Ms. MacNeill will follow up with any gardeners who did not respond to assure that we have an accurate head count for planning purposes. Ms. MacNeill also noted that she received correspondence from Ms. Eulner who confirmed that DPW will inspect the gazebo for bees/wasps prior to the Harvest Fest and will treat if necessary.

Ms. Behr noted that she had received correspondence from 2 gardeners that they would not be returning to the garden in 2020.

Treasurer's Report. Mr. Menapace reported that as of August 12th, 2019 there was a balance of \$11,524.55. There was no new income. There were 2 offset payments to Ms. Benevides. One was for vinegar, salt and miscellaneous supplies needed for the treatment of weeds, which amounted to \$28.02. The other was for the purchase of soil enrichment for the Par plots which totaled \$40.78. This left a final balance of \$11,455.75. Ms. Behr made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and this was seconded by Ms. Wattle.

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.

-Harvest Fest: Ms. Wattle informed the committee of the number of tables which will be needed for set up. She determined that six 4-foot and six 6-foot tables should be adequate to hold food and drinks as well as provide adequate seating. Ms. MacNeill and Mr. Menapace will bring coolers. Ms. Wattle, Ms. MacNeill and Ms. Mahon will bring garbage cans and Ms. Wattle will provide garbage bags. Ms. Benevides and Ms. Mahon agreed to help with flowers again this year. Mr. Burden volunteered to bring ice from the First Aid Squad for the coolers. Ms. Wattle also agreed to purchase snacks, water, lemonade, and ice tea for the event.

New Business.

-Table storage and usage protocol: The committee agreed to house the tables which were purchased last year in the garden shed. Prior to storage, Ms. Benevides will label the tables to indicate that they belong to the Community Garden. There was a discussion regarding best practices for keeping track of the tables. The committee agreed to have Ms. Eulner inform the Council of where the tables are currently being housed and to let all entities who might want to use them that they will need to contact Ms. MacNeill with their request. The committee will have a sign-up sheet in the shed which we will be responsible for filling out with all relevant information such as date, borrower, number of tables, length of time needed, etc.

Open discussion: Ms. Behr reviewed the list of errant gardeners and made a recommendation that 4 of the gardeners should not be asked back in 2020. These gardeners received more than 4 notifications for their inability to properly maintain their plots as per the

Rules and Regulations. These members did not respond to the notifications in a timely fashion or they did not make an attempt to correct their infractions Ms. Behr noted that she has repeatedly offered to assist any gardener with their plot but remediations were not made. The committee was in full support of Ms. Behr's recommendations. Ms. Behr will contact these gardeners via email with the committee's final decision.

Ms. Wattley asked the committee for permission to store PAR plot tomato cages and stakes in the garden shed over the winter. The committee agreed that there was plenty of room in the shed and that it would be in favor of storing the stakes/cages.

Ms. MacNeill proposed the idea of inviting former committee members to the upcoming Harvest Fest. The current committee agreed that it would be a nice gesture. Ms. MacNeill agreed to contact those members via email with an invitation.

Ms. MacNeill asked for input from the committee as to whether or not we should have the soil tested in the garden. After much discussion, it was deemed unnecessary.

There was discussion as to when garden reviews and PAR donations would cease. In both cases, both activities will cease at the end of the month of September.

It was noted that the front gate lock was getting hard to lock. Mr. Menapace volunteered to treat the lock with WD40m to alleviate the problem.

Adjournment. Ms. Forrest made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:00. This was seconded by Ms. Wattley. All approved

Next Meeting. The next meeting will be held at the Shrewsbury Historical Society Building on October 14th at 11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Forrest