

BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY

Shrewsbury Community Garden Committee (SCGC)

Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting

Historical Society Building, 419 Sycamore Avenue, Shrewsbury, NJ 07702
April 8th, 2019

Present:

Pam MacNeill
Tina Behr
Pat Mahon
Della Benevides
Gail Forrest
Judith Reuter
Tom Menapace
Kim Doran Eulner (Council Liaison)

Absent:

Betsy Wattley
Stu Minis

Ms. MacNeill opened the meeting at 11:03 am with the salute to the flag. Ms. MacNeill noted that we are on track for opening day of the garden which coincides with our first community work day to be held on April 27th. Wood chips have been delivered from Frontier Tree Service, who kindly donated the chips to the SCGC. Ms. MacNeill thanked Mr. Menapace and Mr. Pressler for making stakes to mark garden plots. She also thanked Mr. Menapace and Ms. Behr for putting Flex sealant on the stakes to help preserve them from rot. Ms. MacNeill also informed the committee that she obtained various garden equipment (wheel barrel, rakes, pruners, etc) that were either donated or purchased from yard sales at minimal cost. Lastly, Ms. MacNeill stated that she received 7 requests for garden plots since our last meeting. At this time, there are 12 open plots remaining, if second plot requests are filled

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

Correspondence. Ms. MacNeill noted that she had correspondence from an out of state person requesting a plot. This person has family in Shrewsbury and is in the area quite often. The committee agreed to allow this person to sign up for a plot as long as an adult family member residing in Shrewsbury can be contacted should any issues arise. Ms. MacNeill also had correspondence from a gardener who cannot attend the community work day. Ms. MacNeill suggested that the gardener commit an hour to weeding the ADA path prior to opening day. The gardener agreed to do so. Ms. MacNeill also submitted an invoice from the Shrewsbury Historical Society to be paid by the SCGC for use of the SHS building. Ms. Reuter shared the thank you letter she sent to Frontier Tree Service for their generous donation of wood chips.

Treasurer's Report. Mr. Menapace reported that the closing balance from February was \$11,567.70. There was income in the amount of \$100.00 from plot rentals (4 in town rentals at \$25 equally \$100). There was one offset payment in the amount of \$110.72 paid to Mr. Menapace for the purchase of wood to make stakes and for sealant to preserve the stakes. This left a closing balance of \$11,556.98. Ms. Reuter 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.

-Historical Society Bill: The bill from the SHS for the use of the building by the SCGC was submitted to Mr. Menapace for processing.

-Committee member roles for community work day: Since Ms. MacNeill will not be able to attend to the work day, she asked for someone on the committee to be responsible for directing volunteers and assigning tasks during the work day. Mr. Menapace agreed to take the lead and Ms. Behr agreed to be a backup. Ms. Benevides suggested we have a sign-up sheet available on the work day. The committee agreed to this. Ms. Behr volunteered to pick up coffee for the work day, along with cups, sugar, creamers. Ms. MacNeill agreed to sending out reminders and any other email correspondence needed to make for a successful work day.

New Business.

-Double plots: Mr. Menapace suggested keeping unoccupied, contiguous plots vacant this year in case the committee offers double plots next growing season.

-Unoccupied plots: The committee discussed lining any unoccupied plots with black plastic to prevent weeds and help kill bugs. Mr. Menapace also suggested lining the plots with newspaper prior to laying the plastic as an additional means of preventing weeds. The committee agreed with these recommendations.

-Sharing excess plants/seeds: Ms. Mahon suggested a simple plant exchange where extra plants could be labeled and left on the picnic table for others gardeners to plant. Excess seeds could be left in their original packet and placed in a sealed container provided by the committee. Ms. Mahon volunteered to provide the sticks and pens to label the plants as well as the container to store the seeds. The committee agreed with all of McMahon's suggestions.

-Co-chair position: The co-chair position was vacated by Mr. Augusty at the end of last year. Ms. Benevides volunteered to fill the vacant seat. The SCGC agreed to the new appointment.

Open discussion:

There was a discussion regarding a pile of weeds which was left inside the garden. It was determined that the committee needs to make the area for dumping weeds more prominent by marking the area with stakes. Mr. Menapace will liaison with DPW to inform them of our plans.

There was a discussion regarding the need for additional wood chips. Mr. Menapace agreed to contact DPW to obtain permission for a second delivery and to determine where they prefer the chips be deposited. Ms. MacNeill agreed to contact Frontier Tree Services if DPW agreed to the second delivery.

Ms. Benevides noted that the PAR plots are in need of soil amendments (bumper crop). Mr. Menapace made a motion to authorize up to \$100 spend to purchase soil amendments. Ms. Reuter seconded the motion.

Ms. Benevides also noted that the garden is in need of watering wands. Ms. MacNeill agreed to take an inventory of all the garden tools. Mr. Menapace made a motion to authorize up to \$150 to purchase any needed garden tools. Ms. Behr seconded the motion.

Adjournment. Ms. Behr made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Ms. Reuter.

Next Meeting. The next meeting will be held at the Shrewsbury Historical Society Building on May 13th at 11 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Forrest