

BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY

Shrewsbury Community Garden Committee (SCGC)

Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting

Historical Society Building, 419 Sycamore Avenue, Shrewsbury, NJ 07702
April 10, 2017

Present:

**Pam MacNeill
Tom Menapace
Mayor Don Burden
Betsy Wattley
Gail Forrest
Rich Augusty
Judith Reuter**

Absent:

**Tina Behr
Maureen Collins
Fred Preissler**

Ms. MacNeill opened the meeting at 7:10 PM with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance was noted with Mr. Augusty joining the meeting at a later time.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes. Mr. Menapace made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 13, 2017 meeting without change and this was seconded.

Correspondence. Ms. MacNeill said she had correspondence from many first-time gardeners. She took this opportunity to comment on the encouraging level of enthusiasm and participation at the April 8th work day and thanked committee members for their leadership at this event. Ms. MacNeill thanked Mr. Menapace for replacing the broken lock on the south gate.

Treasurer's Report. Mr. Menapace distributed the Treasurer's Report. The closing balance as of March 13, 2017 was \$9,469.73. Income for the month includes 3 plot rentals @ \$25.00 each plus 1 plot rental @ \$35.00 for a total of \$110.00 in income with a pending miscellaneous carry over expense of \$20.98 resulting in an Available Trust Account balance of \$9,579.73. A motion was made by Ms. Reuter to approve the treasurer's report and seconded by Ms. Forrest.

Only three plots remain available and Ms. MacNeill has a list of gardeners who are interested in having an additional plot. May 1 is the date set for notification of second plots for Shrewsbury gardeners.

Ms. MacNeill thanked Ms. Wattley for noticing the need for wood chips in advance of the April 8th work day and addressing the need.

Meeting Opened to the Public. There were no members of the public in attendance. Mr. Menapace put forth a motion to close the meeting to the public and this was seconded.

Old Business. The seed /plant exchange was discussed and a date set for May 21st at 1 PM. There will be an SCGC meeting prior to the plant/seed exchange where a decision about refreshments can be entertained.

A discussion regarding Out of Town Legacy Gardeners was rescheduled for the May 8th SCGC meeting.

New Business. Mr. Menapace discussed the topic of records management and agreed to contact Bonnie Brookes with regard to this topic. He has received previous treasurer's records that are voluminous and retain personal information regarding gardener applications etc going back to the opening of the garden in 2012. Mayor Burden informed the committee that records such as minutes, agendas, and any documents growing out of a committee meeting are retained by the borough. Mr. Menapace added that the garden trust account is managed by the borough and audited annually. Subject to discussion with Ms. Brookes, Mr. Menapace put forth a motion setting aside up to \$50. for the purpose of shredding documents relating to the garden especially those containing personal information. The motion was seconded by Ms. Reuter

Open Discussion. Mayor Burden discussed the need to rent a rototiller for a week end in 2018 for use in garden plots. Mayor Burden recommended purchase of an additional wheel barrow for this season. Mr. Augusty expressed need for additional (2) hoses and an 8 foot 2 by 4 board to build shelves in the shed. Ms. Wattley requested purchase of (2) pitchforks and a shovel. Mr. Menapace put forth a motion to purchase 2 (50 ft.) hoses, an 8 ft. 2X4 board, 2 pitchforks, and a shovel.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Wattley. Mr. Menapace agreed to purchase the approved items through the SCGC account at Lowes. Mr. Menapace informed the committee that he plans to stain the benches in the garden. Ms. MacNeill asked that remaining Garden cookbooks be made available at the seed/plant exchange on May 21st.

Following discussion of whether Round Up should be used to spray the exterior perimeter of the garden fence to inhibit weed growth and fungus, it was decided that committee members consider this a “homework” assignment to be investigated and then discussed at our next meeting in May. The question is “Can we find a less toxic but equally effective weed repellent?” Weed-B-Gone will be investigated as to its ingredients and hopefully, we will have other choices to discuss at our May meeting.

Ms. MacNeill informed the committee that she would not be present at the next SCGC meeting. Mr. Augusty agreed to chair the meeting on May 8th.

Adjournment. Mr. Menapace made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 PM. The motion was seconded by Ms. Forrest.

Next Meeting. Our next meeting will take place at 7 PM on May 8th, 2017 in the Shrewsbury Historical Society Building.

On the May Agenda will be Legacy Out of Town Gardeners, refreshments at plant/seed exchange, and use of weed control around perimeter of garden.

Respectfully submitted,
Judith Reuter
Secretary, SCGC