

BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY

Shrewsbury Community Garden Committee (SCGC)

Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting

Historical Society Building, 419 Sycamore Avenue, Shrewsbury, NJ 07702
Aug 13, 2018

Present:

Pam MacNeill
Judith Reuter
Betsy Wattley
Tina Behr
Tom Menapace
Dick Augusty
Pat Mahon
Della Benevides
Gail Forrest
Don Burden

Absent:

Ms. Mac Neill opened the meeting at 11:02 with the salute to the flag. Ms. MacNeill proceeded to thank Ms. Behr for her difficult yet effective role as garden maintenance representative. Ms. MacNeill also thanked Mr. Menapace and Mr. Benevides for the modifications they made to the gates in the hopes of keeping animals out of the garden. In addition, she thanked Ms. Wattley, Ms. Benevides and Ms. Mahon for the flowers they planted within the garden, particularly in the corners which helps beautify the fence appearance. Ms. McNeill also thanked Mayor Burden for his donation of the wash basin, Mr. Menapace for communications with the DPW and to Mr. Augusty for disposing of the two non-functioning rototillers which were cluttering the garden shed.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes. Mr. Menapace made a motion to approve the July 2018 minutes of the SCGC meeting and this was seconded by Ms. Behr.

Correspondence. Ms. MacNeill informed the committee that she is receiving an increasing number of requests for help in watering or maintaining plots while gardeners are away or incapacitated. Although the committee had been able to help in certain circumstances, it is becoming difficult to keep up with the increasing number of requests. Ms. Mac Neill proposed that gardeners should seek assistance from a neighboring gardener or from a family member or friends which do not necessarily need to be SCG members. The committee agreed with Ms. MacNeill's proposal.

Treasurer's Report. Mr. Menapace reported that the closing balance from July was \$10401.08. There was no new income. There were offsets in the amount of \$75.64 which included reimbursements to Ms. MacNeill in the amount of \$19.94, Ms. Mahon in the amount of \$19.99 and Ms. Benevides in the amount of \$35.71. This left a closing balance is \$10,325.44. Ms. Wattley made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and this was seconded by Ms. Reuter.

Meeting Opened to the Public. The meeting was opened to the public. Mr. Ed Kosberg, a member of the SCG, joined the meeting. The committee welcomed Mr. Kosberg and thanked him for his role in repainting the garden signs. Because of the continued problem that the garden faces with animals getting into the garden and eating the produce, Mr. Kosberg presented the committee with a possible solution. He suggested that a wire extension could be attached to the fence gates to reduce the gaps that are present. After much discussion, it was agreed that Mr. Menapace would add a small mesh extension to the fence door. The committee also agreed to dismiss the idea of using a Have-a-Heart trap in an attempt to capture and release the intruders. The meeting was then closed to the public.

Old Business.

There was a discussion pertaining to the original date chosen for the annual Harvest Fest. There was a potential conflict with the date, but this has been resolved. The committee agreed to keep the original date which is Oct. 14th. Ms. MacNeill will send out the date to all gardeners and will ask for volunteers to help with the set up and take down of tables and chairs.

Mr. Menapace provided an update on the information he gathered regarding the purchase of a new picnic table for the garden. Mr. Menapace had identified a folding picnic table from Costco, but Ms. Benevides noted that the product got poor reviews. Mr. Menapace also provide d information on a wood table which could be purchased with a pre-drilled hole for an umbrella, however there were concerns that the table may not of sufficient size. Mr. Augusty reminded the committee that the primary concern was not a new table but the need for more shade. He proposed to the committee to purchase 2 market umbrellas and bases and leave the existing

picnic table in the place. Mr. Augusty also kindly volunteered to donate an umbrella base which he no longer uses. The SCGC agreed with Mr. Augusty's proposal and decided to purchase one umbrella to see if this would be a viable option to the existing shade screen that is in place but not effective. If so, a second umbrella and base would be purchased in the future. The specifics of the umbrella were discussed and the committee decided that an umbrella should have a crank handle for easy opening/closing and should have a tilt mechanism to adjust to the sun's direction. A motion was made by Mr. Menapace to spend up to \$200 on the purchase of a new umbrella. The motion was seconded by Ms. Reuter. Once purchased, Ms. MacNeill was send an email reminding gardeners to put the umbrella down when not in use,

New Business.

Mayor Burden informed the committee that DPW was putting a picnic table under the beech tree alongside the garden.

There was a discussion regarding the excess produce in many gardens plots. Ms. MacNeill will send an email to gardeners to remind them to donate any excess produce to the PAR cooler. Ms. MacNeill will also personally contact a gardener, who has in the past, offered the committee to pick from his plot, to see if he is still willing to donate his excess produce to PAR.

Ms. Behr initiated a discussion regarding gardener's responsibilities in maintaining their plots. The rules and regulations state that if any gardener receives four or more warnings within one season that the matter would be brought before the SCGC for a decision on the forfeiture of the plot. However, Ms. Behr noted that although one gardener has received 4 notifications, they have been very responsive to correcting the infractions in a timely manner. In contrast, other gardeners have received the same number of notifications but have not taken action to correct nor maintain their plots. Ms. Behr suggested that the committee will need to discuss how to determine which gardeners will be offered a plot next year and which will not be invited back.

Open Discussion:

Ms. Benevides informed the committee of a squash bug infestation in the garden. She posted the information of Facebook and on the bulletin board. In addition, Ms. MacNeill will send out an email to notify gardeners. Ms. Benevides also noted the need to remind gardeners to clean out their plots at the end of the growing season since the bugs will over winter under the plantings and re-emerge the following season. In addition, Mayor Burden mentioned putting black plastic over the cleared out plots to prevent bug infestation.

Ms. MacNeill noted that the next meeting falls on Rosh Hashanah. She asked the committee members if they wanted to reschedule the meeting due to the holiday. It was decided that the meeting would not be moved as most members could be in attendance.

Ms. Forrest noted that she will not be attendance at the next meeting. Ms. Forrest will solicit agenda topics and will send out the agenda prior to the meeting. Ms. Wattleley agreed to be responsible for the minutes of that meeting. Ms. Behr also mentioned that she will not able to attend the September meeting. .

Adjournment. Mr. Menapace made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Ms. Benevides.

Next Meeting. The next meeting will be held at the Shrewsbury Historical Society Building on September 10th at 11 am

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Forrest