

BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY

Shrewsbury Community Garden Committee (SCGC)

Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting

Historical Society Building, 419 Sycamore Avenue, Shrewsbury, NJ 07702

July 9, 2018

Present:

Pam MacNeill
Tina Behr
Della Benevides
Pat Mahon
Tom Menapace
Betsy Wattley
Don Burden

Absent:

Dick Augusty
Gail Forrest
Judith Reuter

Salute of the Flag and Presiding Officer's Statement: Ms. MacNeill opened the meeting at 11:04 with the salute of the flag. She then thanked all committee members for their help on the June 20th workday. Considering the extreme temperature of that day she suggested that future workdays should be postponed when the day is predicted to be unusually hot. She specifically thanked Mr. Menapace for lowering the position of the inside front gate handle, and Lou and Della Benevides for installing the sun shade in the SE corner of the garden.

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

Correspondence: Ms. MacNeill informed the committee that she received another letter from Lunch Break thanking the garden for donated produce. She also received photographs from Maxine Neuhauser of Ed Kosberg painting the Shrewsbury Garden and Welcome signs.

Treasurer's Report: Mr. Menapace reported that the only difference in this month's report from last month was a \$25.00 payment from Dawn Edwards for a second plot. This resulted in a closing balance of \$10,401.08. Ms. Benevides made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and this was seconded by Ms. Behr. Ms. Mahon asked to be reimbursed for laminating sheets for documents for the Master Gardener Community Garden Tour on July 14th. Ms. Benevides requested reimbursement for zip ties.

Meeting Opened to the Public: The meeting was opened to the public and closed as no one was in attendance.

Old Business: Ms. Benevides provided the committee with an update on the upcoming Master Gardener Community Garden Tour on July 14th. The tour will be from 10 to 4. She has posted a flyer for the event on the SCG Facebook page. Mr. Burden will provide an umbrella and table. Janet Dill will provide posters which will be displayed in the gazebo. Ms. MacNeil was asked to email and inform plot owners about the event.

As requested at the June meeting, Mr. Menapace contacted DPW (Mr. Neis) about plant material to provide screening and beautification along the north wall of the garden. Mr. Neis advised that any material planted outside the fence would have to be approved by DPW. Mr. Neis further advised that any material would have to be planted at least 6 feet from the fence to allow DPW workers access to mowing and maintenance. Mr. Neis suggested planting sunflowers inside the fence as an alternative. As the season is already midway it was decided that nothing would be planted this year and further the issue should be tabled at this time.

New Business: Ms. MacNeil discussed the issue of excessive weeds within plots. It was decided that plot owners would only receive notifications about weeds encroaching into the public pathways and not within the plot itself, unless those weeds within the plot have matured to seed and jeopardize neighboring plots. Then the plot owner will receive a notification to remediate the plot.

The committee discussed standardizing labels on all gate locks to read "this side up". Ms. Benevides agreed to make the labels.

Mr. Burden requested Ms. MacNeil advise all gardeners to watch for ticks as the area to the west where garden refuse is deposited is a favorite spot for deer.

Ms. MacNeil requested Mr. Menapace to inspect the benches at the picnic table for splitting and warping.

The committee discussed the need for more shade in the garden in addition to or as an alternative to the sun shade in the SE corner. Mr. Menapace volunteered to see whether the picnic table would be adaptable to inserting an umbrella in the middle reinforced by a base underneath.

Ms. Benevides began a discussion about the requirement of gardeners to assist on community garden workdays. It was decided that the policy that all gardeners are required to help on workdays should be reinforced at the annual meeting, and that workday dates would be announced at the meeting. Further, on workdays, a sign-up sheet will be available to keep track of gardeners who appear, providing incentive to plot owners to comply with this requirement.

Open Discussion: The date of the annual Harvest Fest was set for Oct 14, from 4-6.

Ms. MacNeil requested that committee members routinely check for faucets left "on".

Mr. Menapace made a motion to allow committee members to spend under \$50 for garden supplies at their own discretion. Expenditures greater than \$50 would have to be approved by the committee. Ms. Behr seconded the motion.

Ms. MacNeil volunteered to purchase new (non on-off) wands for the garden. Mr. Menapace moved that \$60 be approved for this purchase and Ms. Behr seconded the motion.

Mr. Menapace was given the OK to offer the remaining non-functional roto-tiller to DPW.

Mr. Burden donated a stand alone sink to be placed in the garden for produce washing.

Mr. Burden requested Mr. Menapace to ask Ron Neis if more stone dust was available for the ADA path.

Adjournment: At 12:30 Ms. Behr made a motion to adjourn the meeting and this was seconded by Mr. Menapace.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Betsy Wattley