

# **BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY**

## **Shrewsbury Community Garden Committee (SCGC)**

### **Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting**

Historical Society Building, 419 Sycamore Avenue, Shrewsbury, NJ 07702  
December 11, 2017

#### **Present:**

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

#### **Absent: Judith Reuter**

Ms. MacNeill opened the meeting at 11:05 with the salute to the flag. She noted that tenure was up for 3 committee members. Those members were Judith Reuter, Betsy Wattley and Tom Menapace. Ms. Wattley and Mr. Menapace agreed to sign up for an additional three year term. Both members agreed to maintain their current roles. Ms. Wattley will continue in her role as PAR representative whereas Mr. Menapace will serve as treasurer. Ms. Reuter communicated with Ms. MacNeill previously that she would sign up for an additional term but would prefer to give up her role as secretary. Ms. Reuter has agreed to take over publicity from Ms. Behr. Ms. Forrest agreed to take on the role of secretary. Ms. MacNeill and Mr. Augusty agreed to maintain their roles as Chair and Co-chair respectively. The need for the role of garden liaison was also discussed. This position was previously held by Mr. Preissler who is no longer on the committee. The committee agreed that this position is no longer needed as gardeners tend to communicate directly with Ms. MacNeill or Ms. Behr via email. Ms. MacNeill agreed to communicate the changes in the SCGC to Kathy Kruger at borough hall

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes.** Mr. Augusty made a motion to approve the November 2017 minutes of the SCGC meeting and this was seconded by Ms. Behr.

**Correspondence.** Ms. Behr reported that the speaker for the January meeting was confirmed. Camille Joseph Balanikis, who is a member of the SCG and who works for the NYC parks system, will be speaking about pest management and seed starting. Ms. Behr will get a formal title of her talk from Ms. Joseph. Ms. Behr also confirmed that she has obtained a projector for the talk. Ms. MacNeill will provide the computer. A final run through to ensure all equipment is working properly is required prior to the January talk.

**Treasurer's Report.** Mr. Menapace reported that the closing balance from November was \$9058.22. There has been no income and no offsets since then, leaving an available balance of \$9058.22. Ms. Wattley made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and this was seconded by Mr. Augusty.

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

**Old Business.** Ms. Benevides reviewed the changes made to the 2018 rules and regulations document based on discussions from the November meeting and asked for input regarding certain wording. Under section 1: Membership and Fees, it was agreed to remove wording that states gardeners need to report their volunteer hours to the committee and that a calendar of workdays will be available at the annual meeting. It was also agreed to remove the final paragraph on Attachment 1 regarding the deadline for plot payment fees. Ms. Benevides also noted other changes in the document which include changing the stake heights from 5 feet to 6 feet and detailing that borders should be no more than 5 inches in height. In addition, information was added to reflect that checks should be made payable to the Borough of Shrewsbury for garden plot fees. A motion to approve the rules and regulations was made by Mr. Menapace and was seconded by Mr. Augusty.

A discussion regarding the status of Shrewsbury legacy gardeners who move out of town was raised. It was agreed that any in town legacy gardener who moved out of town could retain their legacy status upon moving.

Ms. Behr reported on the final garden review. She notified all gardeners who have not cleaned up their plots or who have left cages or stakes in their plots which need to be removed. Some of the gardeners have responded to the communications, others have not. Those members who have not responded were not in danger of having their plots surrendered for one year.

**New Business.**

Ms. Behr updated committee members on gardeners with delinquent plots. These are gardeners who were given 6 or more notifications in 2017. According to the rules and regulations, these gardeners would not be invited back to the garden for a one year period. She noted that Mayor Burden communicated with the boys scouts regarding surrendering their plot for one year due to lack of maintenance. Ms. Behr stated that she will contact the remainder of the gardeners via email regarding this issue.

The upcoming January annual meeting was discussed. Ms. Benevides agreed to make copies of the rules and regulations. Mr. Menapace and Ms. Behr will bring pens for check writing. Mr. Behr will also bring cash in case change is needed for those paying with cash. Ms. Benevides, Ms. Behr and Mr. Menapace have agreed to assist with the sign up of garden members. Ms. MacNeill will bring one tray of cookies from Costco for refreshments. Water is already available at the historical society. No coffee will be served due to the late hour.

Ms. MacNeill asked for input on topics which should be addressed at the upcoming meeting. Ms. Wattley asked Ms. MacNeill to encourage gardeners to contribute unwanted produce to the community cooler where the proceeds are donated to the local foodbank, Lunch Break. Ms. Benevides requested that Ms. MacNeill remind gardeners not to leave unwanted plants in the PAR plot, nor should they plant these in the PAR plot. .

Open Discussion. Ms. MacNeill mentioned that the schedule of dates for the 2018 SCGC meeting needs to be given to Borough Hall, Ms. Forrest agreed to determine those dates and send the information to Kathy Kruger at borough hall

Adjournment. Mr. Augusty made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Ms. Forrest

Next Meeting. The next meeting will be held at the Shrewsbury Historical Society Building on January 8<sup>th</sup>. The annual reorganization meeting for committee members will start at 6:30 pm, followed by the annual meeting at 7pm.

Upon adjournment, committee members shared in a holiday luncheon provided by Mayor Don Burden.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gail Forrest