

# **BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY**

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

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

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

#### **Present:**

**Pam MacNeill  
Fred Preissler  
Gail Forrest  
Tom Menapace  
Tina Behr  
Della Benevides  
Dick Augusty  
Mayor Don Burden (liason)**

#### **Absent:**

**Betsy Wattley  
Judith Reuter**

Ms. MacNeill opened the meeting at 7:04 PM with The Salute to the Flag. She thanked Ms. Wattley and Ms. Benevides for their hard work regarding the maintenance of the PAR plots and the delivery of produce to Lunch Break. Ms. Benevides noted that over 300 lbs. of produce has been donated to Lunch Break to date and that delivery would continue until the end of this month. Ms. Benevides also noted that they are accepting the donation of green tomatoes and will post a note above the donation cooler to indicate such. Ms. MacNeill announced that Fred Preissler has relinquished his seat on the Garden Committee and thanked him for his six years of dedicated service since the inception of the committee. Pat Mahon has agreed to take Mr. Preissler's seat on the committee, pending council approval next week. Ms. MacNeill also noted that no poison ivy has been found on the perimeter of the garden.

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes.** Mr. Menapace made a motion to approve the August minutes and this was seconded by Mr. Augusty.

**Correspondence.** Ms. MacNeill reported that she had correspondence with Natale Siclare, who has offered to donate and plant two fig trees in the west corner of the garden. Ms. MacNeill also shared an article on the SCG which was recently published in the Navesink Journal. Ms. Behr mentioned that a reporter from the Two River times will come to the Harvest Fest to provide additional publicity on the garden. Mayor Burden brought up the topic of plot borders and the need to set requirements regarding acceptable materials (no pressure treated wood), placement (inside the plot not outside infringing on the walkways) and height restrictions. The committee agreed to address this at the annual meeting

**Treasurer's Report.** Mr. Menapace reviewed the report. The opening balance was \$9135.13. No income was reported this month. Pending offsets of \$18.20 for plastic bag holders purchased by Ms. Benevides left a closing balance of \$9116.93 available in the Trust Fund. Mr. Augusty made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and it was seconded by Mayor Burden.

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

**Old Business.** The protective plastic covers that Mr. Augusty placed on the rusting faucet nubs remain in the place and are providing protection from scrapes and cuts.

Ms. Behr obtained a "Members Only" sign which will be placed on the front gate of the garden by Mr. Menapace in an attempt to curtail non-members from taking produce from plots. The sign was donated to the SCG by "Signs by Tomorrow" located in Shrewsbury. Mayor Burden has offered to acknowledge their contribution via a thank you letter on Borough Stationary.

Ms. Benevides provided an update on the supplies purchased for the Harvest Fest. Ms. Wattley took inventory of supplies already on hand and determined that additional tablecloths were needed. They purchased five round table clothes for the tables left in place from a PBA event held the previous day. They also purchased a roll of table cloth material which will be used to cover the six foot long rectangular tables. Ms. Forrest and Mayor Burden volunteered to bring one garbage can each to the event. Mayor Burden also agreed to pick up ice from the firehouse. Mayor Burden and Ms. MacNeill offered to bring a total of 2 coffee urns, one to be used for coffee and one for hot water. Ms. Wattley and Ms. Benevides kindly volunteered to make flower arrangements for the tables. Ms. Wattley will purchase snacks for the party. Ms. Behr will send out Evite reminders on Friday, Sept 15 as well as a final reminder on Friday Sept 22 in an attempt to get an accurate head count so that

the appropriate number of table and chairs can be set up prior to the event. Volunteers for set up should arrive at 3:15 pm on the day of the Harvest Fest. Ms. MacNeill will bring the extra cookbooks from last year's event for anyone who is interested in taking one.

**New Business.** Ms. Behr brought up the topic of introducing a height restriction on garden plants. This is in regard to the issues faced this season with sunflowers which grew to great heights and eventually shaded the neighboring plots. There was agreement amongst the committee members that height restrictions of no higher than seven feet tall should be set on plants. Ms. Behr will address the height limitations at the annual meeting.

Ms. Mac Neill proposed moving our evening monthly meeting to a day time slot. She asked that all committee members email her with their preference and to propose a day and time that would be preferable.

**Open Discussion.** Mr. Menapace opened the discussion to address out of town legacy members. He proposed that a cap of no more than 10% of the plots be assigned to out of town legacy members. He also proposed that in order for these individuals to be considered as legacy members, they must be in good standing with the SCGC for 3-5 years. It was agreed that the committee would table this discussion for the next meeting for which Ms. MacNeill will provide an updated list of out of town gardeners.

**Adjournment.** Mr. Augusty made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 PM. It was seconded by Mr. Menapace.

**Next Meeting.** The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 10, 2017 at 7 PM at the Shrewsbury Historical Society Building. The change in date was due to the Columbus Holiday

Respectfully submitted,  
Gail Forrest on behalf of Judith Reuter