

# BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY

## Shrewsbury Community Garden Committee (SCGC)

### Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting

Historical Society Building, 419 Sycamore Avenue, Shrewsbury, NJ 07702  
May 13, 2019

**Present:**

Pam MacNeill  
Stu Minis  
Pat Mahon  
Della Benevides  
Gail Forrest  
Judith Reuter  
Tom Menapace  
Betsy Wattlely

**Absent:**

Tina Behr  
Kim Doran Eulner (Council Liaison)

Ms. MacNeill opened the meeting at 11:01 a.m. with the salute to the flag. Ms. MacNeill thanked Ms. Mahon for the work she did in establishing the seed and plant exchange. Ms. MacNeill thanked Ms. Reuter for sending a thank you note to Frontier Tree Service for their second donation of wood chips to the SCG and thanked Ms. Wattlely for establishing the relationship with Frontier Tree Service which has led to the donations. She thanked Ms. Benevides for numbering the faucets in the garden as an easy way of identifying the source of leaking hoses or faucets. Lastly, Ms. MacNeill thanked Ms. Behr for numbering the new stakes and Mr. Menapace for making new stakes, fixing hoses and for being our liaison with DPW.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes. Mr. Menapace made a motion to approve the April 2019 minutes of the SCGC meeting and this was seconded by Ms. Reuter.

Correspondence. Ms. MacNeill noted that she sent out a notice to select gardeners, reminding them that their plots needed to be weeded and cleaned as per the 2019 Rules and Regulations. Ms. MacNeill also had communication with the Borough Clerk to inform them of new members who have recently signed up for new or additional plots. These gardeners should submit a check directly to the Borough. Correspondence from Ms. Behr indicated that the coffee offered at our community work day was left largely untouched, therefore, it was decided that coffee would no longer be offered at the work days. Ms. Benevides provided the committee with a rough draft of a list of gardeners who participated in the community work day. She agreed to send out final version following the meeting. All members of the garden are expected to contribute to the community work days.

Treasurer's Report. Mr. Menapace reported that the closing balance from April was \$11,566.98. There was no new income. There were three offset payments: (1) in the amount of \$24.15 paid to Ms. Forrest for the purchase of wood to make measuring stakes (2) in the amount of \$167.76 to Ms. Benevides for soil amendments for the PAR plots and (3) in the amount of \$100 to the Shrewsbury Historical Society for a facility use fee. These offsets totaled \$291.91 and left a closing balance of \$11,265.07. Ms. Reuter made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and this was seconded by Ms. Benevides.

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

**Old Business.**

-Issues with getting water turned on in a timely manner: After facing many delays in having the water turned at the garden over the years, it was decided that we would put in a request to DPW to have the water turned on by April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Mr. Menapace will contact DPW well in advance of this date, to allow them to schedule the work.

-Plans for unassigned plots: There are 5 plots which are currently unassigned. 2 of these plots are overgrown with weed. Mr. Degenhart had previously offered to spray the perimeter of the garden and any unassigned plots to kill weeds. The committee agreed with this. The committee agreed to wait for 1 week to allow the weeds to die before covering the plots with black plastic to prevent any additional weed growth.

**New Business.**

-Use of wood chips: Mr. Menapace had a request from DPW to use some of the wood chips which were donated to us from Frontier Tree Service. The committee estimated that we would need only half the amount that was delivered for mulching the remainder of the paths. The committee agreed to allow DPW to use the other half of the chips. Mr. Menapace will contact DPW to inform them of our decision.

-Community Garden Tour: Ms. Benevides informed the SCGC that the dates for the Monmouth County Master Gardener Community Garden Tour are set. This year, the tour will take place over 2 days on July 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> from 9-12. Ms. Benevides asked for volunteers to assist in giving tours during the event. Several committee members indicated they could help but will check calendars to ensure they are available.

Open discussion:

Mr. Menapace noted that he had a request from a Keyport Community Garden member to have their committee tour our garden in the hopes of learning best practices to ensure the success of their own community garden. It was agreed that the Keyport Community Garden would tour and that we would share our practices and experiences with them.

Ms. MacNeill noted that the committee needs to make the area for dumping weeds more prominent by marking the area with painted stakes. Mr. Menapace will liaison with DPW to inform them of our plans and ask them to install the stakes.

Ms. MacNeill noted that many of the hand tools are rusting because of an opening in the cart in which they are stored, allowing water to get in. Ms. Benevides volunteered to bring the cart home to determine if a water proof lid could be fitted to the cart. Mr. Menapace mentioned that Fiskars makes inexpensive hand tools which are not prone to rust. He volunteered to purchase a few to have gardeners try them out if replacements are needed.

Ms. MacNeill and Ms. Forrest informed the committee that they would not be in attendance at the June meeting. Ms. Benevides will chair the meeting in Ms. MacNeill's absence and Ms. Wattley will act as secretary.

Adjournment. Ms. Reuter made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Ms. Wattley.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Gail Forrest