

Waterboro Community Garden Committee and Member Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 9, 2023 at 3 pm – In the Garden

Attendees

Brigit McCallum
Donna Berardi
Lisa Moulton
Judi Carl
Sherry Stone
Oksana Sigleski
Sue Briggs

Introductions/Welcome

A. Member Questions and Concerns

The word “Concerns” will be revised to “Comments” in future agendas.

B. Approval of July 12, 2023, Minutes

Oksana moved; Sherry 2nd Approved 7/0

C. Financial Report – Sherry

Sherry reports, June 30, 2023 (the end of FY '23) balances have not been carried forward as of July 28, 2023, financial reports. We should see them on the next financial reports that will be available in the August 15 Board of Selectmen Packet. Here are the preliminary numbers:

D. Organizational Matters

1. Alerts to members not meeting agreements from the application/handbook i.e., planting and weeding.

The three strikes you are out provision of previous handbook guidelines was discussed. Brigit has reached out to 3 member gardeners to address maintenance concerns. Help will be given to those that need it.

2. Discuss and vote on Draft WCG Handbook -- Sherry

Sherry sent the 2024 Waterboro Community Garden handbook to the committee for review prior to this meeting. Donna had several suggestions. Discussed other revisions. Sherry will make updates and send via email to committee for a vote.

Note: post meeting, revisions made and voted on via email. Vote 6/1 to approve and post to town website.

E. Infrastructure

1. Maintenance items – Oksana

Oksana will email all gardeners regarding weeds in the pathways. Mowing has been particularly hard with the rain and heavy grass. Sherry suggested a wider more powerful mower is needed.

2. Update on raised bed maintenance needs – Sue

Sue has done a bed survey and identified beds requiring work for this season. Most are involving corners and mid bed bowing. One bed needs replacement. It was suggested for the beds involved, that in the fall when gardeners are cleaning out their beds that they mound soil to the center away from boards, to aid in repair. This will allow faster repair. An email will be sent to each effected bed member for their help to move back soil by Oct. 1. Sue moved, Donna 2nd. Approved 7/0 to do work this year.

3. Rain Garden discussion – Oksana

The rain garden (near the chip pile) has been difficult to maintain, and other options were discussed. There is a lot of Joe Pye-weed and other plants that have gotten very large. The blueberry bush will be moved to the new berry garden. The other plants will be thinned or removed as much as possible this fall. Lisa requested the ninebark. A sitting area and bench were discussed as a replacement. To be continued.

4. Volunteer hours report – Lisa

Lisa gave the volunteer update.
8 people have reported, 35 hours recorded for this month.

5. (Inserted agenda item) -Town Budget Committee agenda

Sherry suggested that we should be on the towns budget committee agenda. She will keep an eye on getting on the meeting agenda to update them on our upcoming needs.

6. Volunteer commitments and follow-through – Sherry and Oksana

Sherry and Oksana to follow up with pantry garden volunteers to make sure they are doing what they signed up to do. The Post Office bed was lacking watering. They will email volunteers weekly as a follow up to confirm their availability.

7. Guidelines for some volunteer jobs to help folks (e.g., mowing)

Oksana sends a list of guidelines for how and what is done, then reviews with volunteers. Sherry discussed maintenance and cleaning of the mower. She will look into this further for how to's and frequency of cleaning required. How to lift the lawnmower into the shed and for maintenance was discussed.

Note: following the meeting, Sherry developed mowing guidelines, and this was sent to the committee for review and vote. Document was reviewed, revised and approved. Volunteers that mow will be given this info.

8. Donations from Sandy's home shed – Sue

Mike Jorgensen has donated any and all contents of Sandy's home shed to WCG. On 8/9/23, Brigit, Oksana and Sue went to Sandy's home prior to the meeting to collect garden equipment Mike Jorgensen donated. We received a lot of new shovels, hand tools and rakes, new hooks for the WCG shed and tie downs for the berry garden. We also acquired extension cords, two new carts and two raised planters we are hoping will benefit Judi and perhaps others with back issues. Everything has been brought back to the garden and new tools are in the shed. Sue will send Mike a thank you and update him on what remains.

Following the thank you email I had this reply from Mike, "Thanks to everyone that helped". He will be returning to Maine late evening 8/27 to set up for his "free" yard sale that he expects to be having 8/30 and 8/31. If anyone would like to help him set up it is very much appreciated and please attend the "free" sale!

F. Projects

1. Pantry Garden – Oksana

Oksana reports there is a lot of produce coming in. Garden is doing well. She would also like to paint the fence this fall -white.

3. Member Beds- Brigit

Brigit would like to let Rebecca know that the Post Office Bed will be available this fall if she would like to move over to that bed from the Dennis Johnson Mill bed.

2. Berry Garden – Sue

Sue reports that the bushes are doing well. Several of the blueberry bushes have new growth, and others still establishing roots for this year. Wood chips will need to be put down each side of the center, around bushes. A bucket brigade will be scheduled as the wheelbarrows don't fit thru the gate. Stay tuned!

G. Other?

1. Asian jumping worms- Brigit discussed these worms and if you see them kill them and remove them from garden area. Ziplocks are available in the shed. Do not dispose of them in the compost pile!

Judi moved to adjourn, Donna 2nd, vote 7/0
Meeting adjourned at 4:41pm.

Next meeting 9/13/23 at 3 pm. Meeting will be held in the garden, weather permitting.

Meeting minutes submitted by Sue Briggs, Acting Secretary.