



**Waterboro Community Garden Committee and Member Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 13, 2023; 3 pm; Selectmen Chambers**

Attendees

Brigit McCallum - Chair
Donna Berardi - C
Jean Burke - M
Judi Carll - C
Kat McMann - M
Lisa Moulton - C
Oksana Sigleski - C
Sherry Stone – C

Introductions/Welcome

A. Member Questions and Comments

None at this time.

B. Approval of the August 9, 2023, Minutes:

No comments or changes.

Motion to approve by: Donna Berardi

Seconded by: Oksana Sigleski

Motion Passes: 6 – 0

C. Financial Report

Sherry noted that the Town has not carried forward the FY '23 Revenue and Expense Account balances as of September 8, 2023. Brigit noted that it takes the Town a long time before the account balances are updated.

D. Organizational Matters

1. **Renewals.** Brigit reminded everyone to get their renewal applications in by September 30. Brigit introduced the discussion on what “Good Standing” means as referenced in the handbook for renewing members. Brigit proposed that we define “Good Standing.” Discussion included: Volunteer hours are met; member’s bed is maintained (weeded, and no plants that have gone to seed), and there are no outstanding complaints.
2. **New fillable form.** Brigit mentioned that the E-Sign up Form for the Garden Application is not an easy process. Sherry mentioned that the intention was to complete the form digitally, print, sign, and submit/mail with payment to the Town.

Sherry will ask Dave Lowe to remove the E-Signup Form and we will go back to our normal procedure for completing and signing the application.

E. Infrastructure

1. **Lawnmower care.** Sherry introduced two options for cleaning the under deck of the lawnmower: 1) tilt the lawnmower vertically and use a plastic or wood tool to scrape the grass clipping from underneath. The committee can find a small jack to do this or place a heavy object on the handle to weigh it down; or 2) gently pull the starter cord so that the engine does not start, and then lock it into place, and place the mower on its side with the oil side facing down. The committee decided that the second option would be best. It was mentioned that asking the person who mows to clean it after mowing would be too much. Oksana, Sherry and Lisa agreed to be in charge of cleaning the mower, but we would also add it to the volunteer list in case someone else wants to volunteer to do the cleaning. Donna proposed that we do this once-a-month. Sherry pointed out that if the grass clippings build up, it reduces the air flow under the deck and dulls the blade. It is recommended that we do the cleaning within a day after the mower is used. Sherry will make the final changes to the Mower Maintenance Guide and present it to the committee for a vote.
2. **Volunteer hours.** Lisa reported that volunteer hours were down in August, with a total of 8.5 hours. Oksana mentioned that she did not submit her hours for August yet. Total for the season to date is 150.5 hours. It was noted that some members have not done any volunteer hours this season. Lisa will check the shed in case someone wrote them down instead of submitting them to Lisa in an email.
3. **Bed repair/replacement.** Judi spoke to Woodsome's Lumber and they will deliver 8-12" boards for \$150. The committee discussed if the Town could print a check made out to Woodsome's without a Form W-9. Brigit said that she is willing to make the purchase and submit for reimbursement; however, we may lose the tax-exempt status. Sherry will check with Laura Fish to see if they can pay Woodsome's Lumber directly without a Form W-9. Sherry will coordinate how payment will be made once she has this information. Additional information from Judi after the meeting: The boards are 2" x 12" x at least 12' (some will be longer) for a total of (8) boards.
Motion to approve by: Judi Carll
Seconded by: Donna Berardi
Motion Passes: 5 – 0
4. **High quality compost and loam.** The remaining pile at the garden is 50/50 compost/loam, which is almost gone. We will need loam for topping off the beds at some point. The compost is used for planting. Jean Burke contacted Ossipee Trail in Gorham and Donna contacted Tibbetts Farm in Lyman. Ossipee Trail will not deliver. Tibbetts has compost available now at \$52/yard plus a \$50 delivery fee. They cannot guarantee the price next year, so that is the price for delivery this year. Jean Burke mentioned that 1 yard is needed for every 100 sq. ft. Brigit inquired about Leighton's providing 100% compost. Lisa said that it is not the best quality and it is usually not ready until late spring. Oksana suggested that it be delivered to the back right corner of the garden and that we would need a tarp to put on the ground before delivery and a tarp to cover the pile after delivery. The committee decided to purchase the compost from Tibbetts Farm this year. Four yards of compost delivered would be \$258.

Motion to approve by: Donna Berardi

Seconded by: Oksana Sigleski

Motion Passes: 5 – 0

5. **Second shed.** It was decided to postpone discussion of a second shed. In the meantime, Donna will research sheds and a ramp.
6. **Cork board for the shed.** This discussion was postponed until Oksana and Sherry design a layout plan to reorganize the shed and decide where everything can go.
7. **Adding back two beds and the Dennis Johnson Mill bed.** Brigit is waiting to hear back from Rebecca to see if she wants to renew the Dennis Johnson Mill bed or move to another location. If Rebecca provides undesirable feedback on the DJM bed, then the committee will vote to remove this bed. Adding back Lake Arrowhead; Dog Park/Little Ossipee beds was postponed until next season when we have more information.
8. **Watering Tray.** Donna mentioned that we used to have a watering tray, waist high, by one of the faucets for cleaning produce that can be used by members and the Pantry. Donna will research watering trays to present to the committee at a later meeting.

F. Projects

1. **Pantry Garden.** Oksana said that the garden is winding down and that it has been a “sad year.” Oksana doesn’t think that we will make it to 500 pounds this year vs. 700 pounds last year. The bush beans are doing great, and the carrots did not do so great. Oksana recommended that we do not grow carrots next year. Judi asked how many pounds of onions the garden produced. Oksana to get this number to her. The squash production is down from last year. The leeks can be pulled in October. Oksana mentioned that the fence needs to be painted and that we will need volunteers.
2. **Berry garden.** Sue was not present. Brigit mentioned that Sue wanted to thank Lisa and the mystery gardener who helped spread the woodchips in the berry garden. Sue spread the wood chips on the truck entrance side and after noticed that someone had started with a small area at the beach plum end. Lisa completed the side closest to the shed a few days following.

G. Other

1. **Storm alert.** Jean mentioned that Spectrum sent out an alert for high winds this weekend. Brigit will send out a reminder to everyone to secure their tall plants in preparation of the storm.
2. **Landscape edging.** Sherry asked Oksana if the landscape edging arrived. She confirmed that it did. Sherry will coordinate volunteer to install this fall.

Motion to adjourn: Donna Berardi

Seconded by: Oksana Sigleski

Motion passes: 6 – 0

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Next meeting October 11, 2023, at 3 pm, to be held in the garden, weather permitting.

Meeting minutes submitted by Sherry Stone, Committee Treasurer.