



Waterboro Community Garden
24 Townhouse Road
East Waterboro, ME 04030

Waterboro Community Garden Committee and Member Meeting

**Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at 3 pm –
inside Town Hall**

Attendees

Brigit McCallum (CM)
Sherry Stone (CM)
Oksana Sigleski (CM)
Judi Carll (CM)
Sue Briggs (HM)
Pat Lyons
Jean Burke
Julie Nugent

(CM-Appointed Committee Member, HM Honorary Committee member)

Introductions/Welcome

A. Member Questions and Comments

There were no member questions or comments.

B. Approval of October 11, 2023 Minutes

Oksana made a motion to approve, Judi second, Vote 4/0 to approve.

C. Financial Report – Sherry

The Board of Selectmen Agenda Packet for the November 7, 2023, meeting only contained the Expense Report and did not contain the revenue report. Sherry will reach out to someone at the Town to see what was deducted from the Revenue and Expense accounts since the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2023.

October Transactions include two purchases deducted from the expense account; the revenue account transactions include two new bed rentals (rent+deposit), and four deposit refunds for non-renewing members.

D. Organizational Matters

1. Town Report – Brigit will write the draft. She has received many emails with project update information.
2. Donna has updated and sent to all members, the 2024 garden member list and garden map.

E. Infrastructure

1. Volunteer hours report – Lisa/Brigit

Brigit reports that Lisa sent her the monthly volunteer hours. There were 7-1/2 hours reported. Oksana, Jean and Sue haven't sent their hours for the bed rebuild yet but will.

2. Bed repair/replacement

Sue reported that all the beds on the list and several more were repaired and made stable for the winter. Many rotten boards were found when dirt was pushed back.

One new bed was replaced and will be the model for future replacements. There were 5 beds found that will require replacement next year and work will be divided into two projects, Spring and Fall. Work this year went quickly with all the lumber being precut the day before.

Kudos to John, Kathy's husband John who helped Ernesto's build his bed and Oksana's husband Sam who did all the cutting!

3. State of garden cleanup overall at season's end

Oksana mentioned that all garden equipment should be taken home or laid down, so nothing blows around.

The bird bath in the pantry bed will be put inside.

The Joe Pye weed will be cut down.

Several more tarps are needed to cover the wheelbarrows and loam/compost being delivered.

Sherry made a motion to purchase more tarps, not to exceed \$150.00, Brigit second, Vote 4/0 to approve.

4. Status of compost/loam donation from Leighton

Brigit called Leighton's and reports that they haven't had a truck available. The loam/compost may be delivered today if Leighton has a truck available.

5. New Shed discussion

This item combined under 6.

6. Elder Gray Garden Shed

Judi reports that the Waterboro Historical Society will be removing the Elder Grey Shed to make room for their new project. This could potentially be donated to the WCG. It is the right size for the lawnmower and pantry bed equipment and has a ramp. Judi will confirm with Jon Gale and let us know. We will need to arrange delivery. Oksana and Sue to go over to the Taylor House and look at the shed. Once donation is confirmed we can find a shed mover.

7. Straw

Katherine's straw has all been used.

F. Projects

1. Pantry Garden

Oksana reports the final pantry donation weight was 481 lbs. This is a little less than previous years due to all the rain. Last year the donation was 774 lbs.

Oksana shared that every gardener helped in some way this year, whether it was weeding, watering, harvesting etc.

2. Berry Garden

Sue reports more chips will be put down. The enclosure door will be propped open to allow any birds that enter to escape. Next spring, deer fence will be added to keep out birds.

There have been a couple of birds that made it thru the current mesh. Bushes are growing well and will be fertilized in the spring as recommended by the soil test. We have fruit bush and tree fertilizer in the shed.

3. "Little Seed Library" Project possibility

Julie Nugent brought examples of the seed library concept to show everyone. It will be similar to a book lending library. Discussion regarding location for it and who can access it. More discussion needed. We will put on the agenda for February.

4. Next year's potential To Do list:

a. Replace 5 garden beds.

1. Beds to be replaced in the Spring.

Elder Grey

Friendship Park

Dirigo

2. Beds to be replaced in the Fall.

Gobeil Park

Old Home Days

Approximately (25)12' -2x12's will be needed. Judi commented that that size is scarce.

b. Berry Garden will need netting and fertilizing. Fertilizer is in the shed.

c. Trees

Discussion regarding removal of trees near the fence. Brigit spoke with Matt Bors regarding his thoughts about the trees. The trees at the fence are shading several beds.

Consider removing those beds to the rear of the garden.

Put on agenda for February to discuss further.

d. Areas around garden beds

Add edging at rear of back beds to aid mowing.

Add landscape fabric and or replace in walkways.

The edging and landscape fabric have been purchased.

e. Shed move/build.

Pending donation from the Waterboro Historical Society. Other options will be considered if donation doesn't materialize. Put on agenda for February.

G. Motion to Adjourn

Oksana made a motion to adjourn, Brigit second, Vote 4/0.
Meeting ended at 4:30 pm.

And just like that the 2023 season is a wrap!

See you all in February 2024!

Enjoy the holidays!

Next meeting will be the second Wednesday of February at 3 pm in the town hall.

Reported by Sue Briggs
Acting Secretary