

**MADISON COMMUNITY GARDEN
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

June 22, 2016

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 PM.

Present: Mike Barrasso, Brian Monaghan, Geoff Anderson, Mary Ellen Kapalo, Margaret Malishchak, Charles Courtney, Sondra Clark, Ursula Leonhardt, Steve McAuliffe, Lynn Macagnano, Steve Stocker

Absent: Rob Catalanello, Charles Van Buskirk, Geoff Thomas

Mike noted that Barbara Spillane is moving and has resigned from the Committee.

Open Meeting Statement

Mike read the Statement of the Open Public Meetings Act, as follows:

"In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting of the Madison Community Garden Advisory Committee was provided by transmitting a copy of the meeting notice to the Madison Eagle, Daily Record and Star Ledger, and posting copies of this notice on the bulletin board at the main entrance to the Hartley Dodge Memorial Building, on January 22, 2016. Copies of said notice were made available to members of the general public."

Roll Call

The roll call was taken.

Approval of Minutes/Agenda Review

There was a motion, a second and a unanimous vote to accept the May 18, 2016 Minutes, with a correction that the vote relating to limiting non-Madison gardeners to 10% of available plots was not unanimous, since there was one dissenting vote. Margaret will provide these Minutes to the Borough Clerk. There were no new items added to the Agenda.

Public Comments

None at this time.

Reports

Comptroller - Charles reported that there has not been much activity since the last meeting. A few items related to the Bee Yard have been paid. Our current balance is \$21,685.

Subcommittee Reports

Communications – Geoff A. reported that he has been monitoring the g-mail account and that gardeners' questions are being answered.

Maintenance/Rules – Brian has the mowing schedule booked through July. Steve M. reported that the clipboard for people to record their volunteer hours is now in the shed.

Master Gardener – Steve S. reported that the ticks seem to have abated. He has not seen any flea beetles. He reported that a woodchuck got in one day, but the gap in the fence has been repaired.

Membership – Margaret noted that we are fully subscribed at this time. There are no available plots and there is no one on the waiting list.

Rules/Enforcement – Steve M. reported that we have heard back from several of the gardeners who were issued “weedy plot” notices. Several have started working their plots. One person gave up his plot. There are still a couple we have not heard from. Mike will send a reminder e-mail to folks who did not respond the first time. Brian noted that several of the plots will need weed whacking and he will do this.

Honeybees – Steve M. reported the bees are doing well. He fed them last Sunday. He found the queen, and there are lots of eggs. Brian and Steve planted asters, which attract bees, behind the hoop houses.

Ongoing Business

Website – Geoff A. reported that he has been getting some content from committee members who volunteered to write it. He asked that those who have not sent in their content yet please do so. He is also still asking for people to submit photos to the Dropbox account.

Bee Club Member List Update –Margaret reported there have been no new members since last meeting.

Morris County Open Gates Day - The next planning meeting is July 7, at which materials will be handed out to distribute to the public. Lynn offered to attend the meeting if Mike or Brian is unable to go. Lynn reported she has the materials for the seed bombs that the public can assemble on Open Gates Day.

New Business

Committee Roster– Since Barbara has resigned, our quorum is now 7. It was suggested we send an e-mail to gardeners soliciting interest in joining the Committee.

Produce Donation Program– Margaret said she would like to kick off the program on July 6. She will compose an e-mail to gardeners announcing the program and send it to Mike. She is also awaiting the driving schedule which the Girl Scouts and their leader are working on. A few gardeners contacted Margaret volunteering to drive or be “ice refreshers”. There was a discussion about getting a new cooler. Mary Ellen recommends the Coleman “5-Day Cooler”, which comes in various sizes and retails for about \$100 or less at Home Depot. There was a motion, a second and a unanimous vote to authorize \$120 for the purchase of a Coleman 5-Day Cooler.

Action: Margaret will send announcement e-mail to Mike and will work with Linda Sawyer to accomplish the purchase of a second cooler.

Bee Fence Upgrade – Steve M. noted that we need to order some parts to improve the bee fence, which should cost about \$150. We also need another stabilizing pipe for the gate. There was a motion, a second and a unanimous vote to approve \$400 for the purchase of materials to upgrade the fence and gate. Steve noted that the optimum voltage for a bear fence is 6-10,000 volts, and that our fence is 7,500 volts.

Mary Ellen noted that the Madison Garden Club referred her to Gene Cracaovia, who currently holds a plot, to discuss the rose garden idea.

There was a comment that Soren had asked if we could get a discount from The Farm at Green Village, and Mike will look into this.

Mike noted that in the future we should refer to half-plots by their East or West designation in addition to the plot number.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:21 PM.

