

**MADISON COMMUNITY GARDEN
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

August 19, 2020

MINUTES

The meeting was conducted via Zoom due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and was called to order at 7:35 PM.

Present: Steve McAuliffe, Brian Monaghan, Sondra Clark, Charles Van Buskirk, Geoff Anderson, Maureen Hoeflin, Margaret Malishchak, Kirk Moehle

Absent: Maureen Byrne, Steve Stocker, Ursula Leonhardt, Paul Schmitt, Mike Barrasso, Lynn Macagnano, Geoff Thomas

Open Meeting Statement

Steve M. 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 23,2020. 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 June 17, 2020 Minutes as written. Margaret will provide these to the Borough Clerk.

Public Comments – none.

Reports

Comptroller – No report at this time.

Subcommittee Reports

Communications – Geoff reported he has been checking and responding to emails.

Maintenance/Rules - Brian reported that the push mower, which we use to cut the cross-Garden paths, is being repaired. There was discussion and consensus that if the mower needs to be replaced, this purchase can be handled between Garden meetings.

Compost - Charlie noted that we have compost and gardeners are using it. He needs to add some greens to the working bins. Steve will send a note to gardeners reminding them to put their garden waste in the “open” bins.

Master Gardener – Brian noted that the 9th pest identification report will be released at the end of the week.

Membership – Margaret reported that all plots are filled and we currently have no one on the Madison waiting list.

Apiary – Steve said 100 pounds of honey were harvested in mid-July. The individual hives produced an additional 200 pounds. The bees are finding forage so we will possibly have another small honey extraction this year. The hives appear to be healthy. They were just treated for mites.

Ongoing Business

MRC Meadow Restoration – Steve M. said that the project is proceeding slowly. Jim Irish has made four applications of herbicides to eradicate invasive species, particularly Bradford pear and phragmites. The plan was to seed in the Fall but this may not happen. A controlled burn is still being investigated.

Front Gate/Garden Entrance Upgrade – Kirk reported he and Mike met last week to discuss the project. Mike is contacting some contractors to obtain bids, which we may have in about 2 weeks.

Eagle Scout Project – Steve reported that David Amieva forwarded him a fund-raising document. Steve assumes the project will start soon.

New Business

Harvest Festival – Steve recommends we cancel in view of the difficulties related to social distancing, provision of food, etc. There was some discussion, and a motion, second, and unanimous vote to cancel the Harvest Festival for this year.

Produce Harvest/Donation - Steve said that Peter Fried approached him about a team of gardeners picking ripe but unharvested produce and donating it to a local congregate feeding operation. We do have a Rule stating that unharvested produce can be picked and donated. Each week by Thursday, Peter will let Steve know which plots have unharvested produce. Steve will email these plot-holders to notify them that their produce will be harvested unless they indicate that they want it. Donations are going to the food pantry at the Baptist Church on Cook Avenue.

Poison Ivy – There is a lot of poison ivy growing around the border fencing. It will be very hard to eradicate without using a toxic herbicide such as glyphosphate. Brian said this would be applied at the end of September. Steve noted that there was a discussion of this problem at the last meeting of the NJ Community Gardeners Association with no good resolution. There was discussion that if we do use glyphosphate it cannot be applied near plots or plants in bloom. Brian will assess the situation and draft a plan for discussion at the next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 PM.