

**MADISON COMMUNITY GARDEN  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**September 16, 2020**

**MINUTES**

The meeting was conducted via Zoom due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and was called to order [at 7:38 PM](#).

**Present:** Steve McAuliffe, Brian Monaghan, Sondra Clark, Mike Barrasso, Maureen Hoeflin, Margaret Malishchak, Kirk Moehle, Ursula Leonhardt

**Absent:** Maureen Byrne, Steve Stocker, Paul Schmitt, Lynn Macagnano, Geoff Thomas, Charles Van Buskirk, Geoff Anderson

**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 August 19, 2020 Minutes with a small spelling adjustment. Margaret will provide these to the Borough Clerk.

**Public Comments** – none.

**Reports**

**Comptroller** – No report at this time.

**Subcommittee Reports**

**Communications** – Steve reported that the gmail account is being monitored and emails are being responded to.

**Maintenance/Rules** - Brian reported he tarped two weedy plots which appeared to be abandoned. There are two others that need to be tarped. The grass cross-paths have been cut twice and look really good. The mower has been fine.

**Compost** – Steve M. and Charlie turned the compost before our last meeting. There is some finished compost which gardeners are using. There was some discussion about how to better secure the bottom of the “gates” on the front of the compost bins, e.g. with rebar. Kirk said he will address these this weekend.

**Master Gardener** – Steve has been issuing the Rutgers IPM reports. The next one will be coming soon.

Membership - Margaret said she checked our box at Boro Hall about a week ago and there were no new applications.

Apiary – Steve reported that the coop hives were mite tested and a couple were treated for mites. Steve has been pulling off supers in preparation for another honey extraction which he will do with Joe Katz. He expects to yield about 50-60 pounds of honey.

### **Ongoing Business**

MRC Meadow Restoration – Steve M. said that the spraying of invasives has been completed by Jim Irish. Another treatment may be needed. Steve talked with the Madison Fire Captain, Ed Nunn, about the possibility of having a controlled burn performed by the New Jersey Forest Fire Service. Ed said he is OK with the idea as long as it is approved by the Boro. Steve is also collecting bids for having the site mowed to the ground.

Front Gate/Garden Entrance Upgrade – Mike and Kirk have developed a theoretical design for a new gate/front entrance. Mike got information from Linda Sawyer before she retired about available contractors who may be able to bid on this job. He has not had a chance to follow up on this yet.

Eagle Scout Project – Steve got a note from David Amieva that he and his father assessed the condition of the picnic table and bench, and thinks the concrete legs are beyond repair. He proposes to replace them, using pressure-treated wood. There was some discussion about the suitability of using this kind of wood since it contains arsenic. The consensus was that it should be OK if David installs something under the bottom of the legs, such as concrete pavers, to avoid contact with the ground.

Poison Ivy Eradication – Steve M. and Brian walked the fence line to assess the amount of poison ivy, which is substantial. There are no organic options for getting rid of it. If we use glyphosphate, the optimal time to apply it is late September. Brian said he would do it in the evening after the bees go into their hives. It is important that we limit collateral damage to beneficial plants. There was some discussion, and a consensus that Brian should proceed with poison ivy eradication with glyphosphate.

### **New Business**

2021 Garden/Bee Club Application and Rules – Steve said we need to get these out to gardeners next week, as the renewal period starts October 1. He is not recommending any changes to the Rules, although the composting rules may need to be tweaked slightly. He will also add a requirement that new individual hive holders must take a beekeeping class.

Garden Paths – There is general agreement that the grass paths look great. Steve inquired whether Brian plans to seed this fall. Brian said he would need to aerate first, but he doesn't think the paths need to be re-seeded at this point. He will consider doing so in the spring.

Steve commented he will send a note to gardeners reminding them that the garden gleaners are still collecting produce for donation.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned [at 8:13 PM](#).