

**MADISON COMMUNITY GARDEN
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

November 18, 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, Mike Barrasso, Maureen Hoeflin, Margaret Malishchak, Kirk Moehle, Ursula Leonhardt, Maureen Byrne, Paul Schmitt, Lynn Macagnano, Charles Van Buskirk, Geoff Thomas

Absent: Steve Stocker, 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 September 16, 2020 Minutes with a small spelling adjustment. Margaret will provide these to the Borough Clerk.

Public Comments – none.

Reports

Comptroller – Lynn reported there has not been much activity. Our balance remains about \$29,000. There were receipts of \$450 in September and nothing in October. Expenses were \$400 in September and nothing in October.

Subcommittee Reports

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

Maintenance/Rules - Brian reported that things have been good. He will make one more push to clean up now that all the leaves are down. The mowers are all in good condition.

Compost – Charlie reported we have compost in every pit and gardeners are using it. He asked the DPW to pick up the garden refuse on the entrance path. Steve reported that he asked Gary's for their bales of hay that were being used for decoration, and they provided us with 13, which will be used in the compost pits as brown material.

Master Gardener – Steve reported the last Rutgers IPM report has been issued. It goes to about 3,000 people and is very well-received.

Membership - Margaret said that she has processed 43 garden renewal applications and 9 applications for the Bee Club. She has not been to Boro Hall in about a week, so there are likely more applications waiting. There are 5 people on the Madison waiting list. One person has surrendered a full-size plot. In 2020, we had 100 gardeners working 67 full plots and 16 divided plots.

Apiary – Steve reported that the coop and individual hives are in reasonably good shape, with strong numbers of bees. It was a difficult year battling mites.

Ongoing Business

MRC Meadow Restoration – Steve M. said that the Garden Club of Madison contributed funding to purchase 30 shrubs and 11 pounds of pollinator seeds for the site. The DPW prepped two additional areas where the shrubs and seeds were used. About two of the nine acres have been planted/seeded. Steve also reported that he had a meeting with the Mayor and several others, including the New Jersey Fire Service, to discuss having a prescribed burn. The Mayor is supportive and will put in a resolution at the November 23rd Boro Council meeting. If approved, the burn could take place sometime between January and April.

Front Gate/Garden Entrance Upgrade – Mike reported he is setting up some meetings with contractors next week to obtain bids for upgrading the front gate/garden entrance.

Eagle Scout Project – Steve reported the Eagle Scout project is now completed, and they did a terrific job. We have a new fire pit, picnic table and benches. Gardeners have already been using the benches.

Poison Ivy Eradication – Brian reported that the poison ivy growing on the border fence has been sprayed with glyphosphate. It will probably have to be treated again in the Spring.

Pollinator Plant Giveaway – Steve said that seeds for 18 species of native plants were planted in the bed formerly occupied by the tree nursery, and most of them germinated. There were two recent afternoons where Madison residents could come and take plants for transplantation to their home gardens. The event was a great success with about 60 people

receiving hundreds of plants. Steve gave a special thanks to Joan Maccari, who was instrumental to the success of this project.

New Business

Madison Community Garden Position on Growing Marijuana – Steve said now that marijuana has been legalized in New Jersey we will need to decide whether we will permit it to be grown at the Community Garden. There was some discussion. Maureen B. said the Boro would need to weigh in on the issue. The eventual consensus was that we should develop a rule banning the growing of marijuana for now.

Solstice Festival – There was some discussion about whether we should hold the festival this year. Maureen B. noted that there has been a recent spike in Covid cases in Madison. Governor Murphy has said that people should not congregate in groups larger than 10. The eventual consensus was that we should cancel this event for this year.

2021 Committee Membership Reappointments – There are seven Committee members who have terms expiring at the end of 2020. Steve said they have all agreed to serve for another 3-year term. He noted our yearly organizational meeting will be held January 20, 2021.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 PM.