

**MADISON COMMUNITY GARDEN
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

November 20, 2019

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 PM.

Present: Steve McAuliffe, Mike Barrasso, Ursula Leonhardt, Steve Stocker, Paul Schmitt, Geoff Anderson, Margaret Malishchak, Charles VanBuskirk, Geoff Thomas, Brian Monaghan, Lynn Macagnano,

Absent: Maureen Hoeflin, Kirk Moehle, Sondra Clark, Maureen Byrne

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 17, 2019. 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 Minutes of the September 18, 2019 meeting as previously distributed. Margaret will provide these Minutes to the Borough Clerk. Steve M. said he wanted to add an item about the Tree Nursery to the Agenda. Brian said he wanted to add an item about the Spring Kickoff meeting to the Agenda.

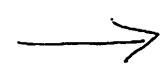
Public Comments

No comments at this time.

Reports

Comptroller – Lynn reported there were two expenditures since our last meeting, \$129 for grass seed and \$247 for apiary supplies. There was \$210 income for Bee Club renewals and \$750 for Garden renewals. Our account balance is about \$25,000.

Subcommittee Reports



Communications – Geoff noted that there has been normal traffic on the email account and inquiries are being answered.

Maintenance/Rules – Brian said there were 4 particularly weedy plots this season and wondered if any of these people have renewed. He will let Margaret know which plots these are so that if those gardeners renew, we speak to them about plot maintenance as per Garden rules. He also inquired when we would plan to schedule the Spring Kickoff meeting so we can start informing gardeners that it is essential that they attend this meeting. Usually it is the third week in April. He also noted that the grass on the paths is coming in well.

Master Gardener – Steve S. noted that most of the bugs have disappeared except for some whiteflies on kale plants.

Membership – Margaret said about 23 gardeners have renewed so far, and about 9 Bee Club members.

Apiary – Steve said it has been a rough Fall with mite infestations. Several hives needed to be treated three times. We may lose 3 of the 5 coop hives, and about half of the individual hives. Steve attended the State Beekeepers Association meeting, and mites were a big topic. One issue may be that healthy bees are stealing food from unhealthy hives and infesting them with mites in the process. Apivar is no longer being recommended, but it is unclear what is a good alternative. At this point extreme vigilance seems to be the best approach.

Ongoing Business

MRC Meadow Restoration – Steve M. noted that about 7 of the 8.5 acres have been cleared by Jim Irish, and he will finish clearing next week. In the Spring we will start applying herbicides to make sure the invasive species are gone. The area will be seeded in the Fall.

Tree Nursery – Steve noted that the Friends of Madison Shade Trees are removing trees from the nursery and planting them around the parking lot adjacent to the meadow.

New Business

Solstice Festival – Steve proposes we hold this on Sunday, December 22 at 4:30 PM. There was some discussion, and Steve said he will send a “save the date” notice to gardeners.

2020 Committee Membership reappointments – Three Committee members have expiring terms at the end of this year, Steve McAuliffe, Brian Monaghan and Ursula Leonhardt. All three have agreed to serve another term. Steve will ask the Mayor to add these appointments to the Boro Organizational Meeting in January 2020.

Charles said that the compost pits are working very well. Several bins now have some finished compost. Paul and Charles will be adding leafy greens to some of the bins and may also add hay, dirt or blood meal. There was some discussion about amendments to the bins as well as how to cover them for the Winter.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 PM.