



SHELTON COMMUNITY GARDENS COMMITTEE

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Meeting Minutes, Monday, April 17, 2017

Present: Sharna Kozak (Chair), Allison Menendez, Patty VanSickle, Teresa Gallagher, Theresa Syc.
Absent: Stacia Monahan, Mary King

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Chairman Sharna Kozak.

1. Meeting Minutes: Patty VanSickle made a motion to approve the minutes for September 26, 2016. Seconded by Allison Menendez. All were in favor.

2. Public Portion. David Miccinelo from the Shelton Lakes Garden brought in a Sonic Spike he purchased for rodent control. Sharna Kozak noted the rodent problem at both gardens. Committee members discussed control options.

3. Shelton Lakes Garden:

- **Infrastructure improvements:** Sharna Kozak said that she and Teresa Gallagher met with the Mayor and George Stachowicz from Highways and Bridges to discuss infrastructure improvements. City staff are currently installing a water line and they moved the garden drive entrance. They did a great job. The water is a big deal. The Huntington Fire Department could not sustain the rate at which they were filling up the tanks. Two large trees had to be removed at the new driveway entrance for site lines, and now headlights from cars driving up to the main road won't shine in anyone's window. The job is not complete yet but it's a good start. We don't know when the water will be available for gardeners. The new line has reached the house now and there is a lot of ledge slowing things down.
- **Spring Work Party:** Sharna Kozak suggested a spring event at Shelton Lakes to encourage gardeners to get out and start working their plots, meet other gardeners, and have an opportunity to put in some community service hours. A "Spring Kick-Off Meet & Greet" was suggested and committee members liked the idea. Sharna Kozak will come up with a date and time. Theresa Syc will determine how many additional fence poles are needed.
- **Garden Expansion:** With a new water supply going in and a long waiting list, the Mayor would like both garden sites expanded. At Shelton Lakes, not much can be done until some of the rocks are removed and the other improvements to the garden are complete. Sharna Kozak attempted to contact the man who did rock removal for the original section but was unsuccessful. The City is probably going to need to screen the soil.

4. Long Hill Garden:

- **General conditions.** Teresa Gallagher noted that the grass needs to be mowed already. Everything looks pretty good. A number of gardeners have already been planting.
- **Garden expansion:** Sharna Kozak said that the Mayor would like more plots added at Long Hill due to the waiting list. Only one plot has become available in each of the last two years, and the waiting list has 28 people on it. Committee members discussed possible configurations, especially the merits of expanding to the east vs the south. One goal was to have the water pump inside the fenced area near a gate, so the south expansion option was chosen. Seven new plots would become available. Committee member discussed the timing and it was felt that it is probably too late in the season to have the hayfield turned over and tilled, the fence installed, gate moved, plots laid out, aisles woodchipped, and new gardeners registered all completed with time to plant crops. All the people needed to work on the expansion are particularly busy this time of year preparing their own plots. Sharna Kozak said she and Teresa Gallagher would plan out the expansion over the summer and have a work party in the fall to install it.
- **Garden Inspections:** Sharna Kozak said we need to clarify this year who is going to do the inspections and stay on top of gardeners who break the rule, because last year we didn't do a very good job. Committee members decided that a simple schedule for inspections was needed and chose the first Saturday of every month during the growing season. Patty VanSickle said she would take charge of the Shelton Lakes inspections and contact the people who helped out in 2015. Teresa Gallagher said that Randy York was willing to do the Long Hill inspections.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm. Next meeting will be held July 10, 2017.

Meeting minutes were prepared by Teresa Gallagher.