



Note: If you have questions regarding Garden Committee agendas or minutes,
contact Conservation Agent Teresa Gallagher at 924-1555 x315

Minutes for January 25, 2010 COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 am at Plumb Library.

Members Present:

Guy Beardsley
Ed Forester
Teresa Gallagher
Linda Hooper
Camme Kemp
Mary King
Allison Menendez
Stacia Monihan

1. Public Portion: No one from the public wished to speak.
2. Election of officers: Mary King was willing to serve as Acting Chairman for the time being, but will not be available during the summer. Linda Hooper nominated Mary King for Chairman; Teresa Gallagher seconded the motion; all in favor, the motion passed.

A Vice Chair was not selected. Camme Kemp took notes for the first meeting but does not have access to a computer and declined to be the committee clerk.

3. Adoption of Rules of Order. Linda Hooper motioned the Committee adopt Robert's Rules of Order. Teresa Gallagher seconded the motion, all in favor, the motion passed.
4. Meeting Schedule. Mary King made a motion to hold meetings on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 9:00 am at Plumb Library. Linda Hooper seconded the motion; all in favor, the motion passed. Discussion: Several committee members felt that meetings needed to be held twice each month in the beginning in order to get the project operational by the planting season of 2010. Teresa Gallagher suggested members of the public may prefer evening meetings so they can attend, however, several members could not be in attendance at that time.

February 9 and 23
March 9 and 23
April 13 and 27
May 11 and 25

June 8 and 22
July 13 and 27
August 10 and 24
September 14 and 28
October 5 and 19
November 9 and 23
December 14 and 28

5. Determine if a need exists for a Community Garden. Teresa Gallagher handed out a listing of what other towns in the area are doing:

2010 Summary of Community Gardening in the Region:

Stratford, Bridgeport, Trumbull, Derby, Ansonia, Milford, and Woodbridge offer community gardens ranging in size from .4 acre (Trumbull) to 3.8 acres (Woodbridge). Bridgeport has ten separate community garden sites, acreage unknown. The largest community garden in the area is in the town with the smallest population (Woodbridge has a population of just 9,000).

Monroe and Orange do not appear to offer community gardens.

Of the cities that do offer community gardens, some of these are partnerships or associations with nonprofit centers: Stratford partnered with Soundkeeper; Ansonia with the Ansonia Nature Center; and Derby at the Kellogg Center.

More information:

Stratford, pop. 50,000
90 plots available measuring 5 x 40' at \$20 each, total of 0.4 acre. There is a waiting list

Trumbull, pop. 34,000
0.4 ac total at Abraham Nichols Park

Bridgeport, pop. 140,000
Ten community gardens, acreage unknown.

Milford, pop. 54,000
2.5 acres at Eisenhower Park

Derby, pop. 12,000
Community Gardens at Kellogg Center, acreage unknown

Ansonia, pop. 18,000
Community Gardens at the Ansonia Nature Center, acreage unknown.

Woodbridge, pop. 9,000
3.8 acres

Allison Mendendez suggested putting out a notice and requesting people to sign up if they are interested in a Community Garden. Teresa will publicize a request for interested parties which will also serve as a waiting list. Allison will be the point of contact.

6. Location: The next meeting will include a site walks of the three sites most recommended by the Conservation Commission: Klapik, Tall Farm, and the Wiacek property. There was a discussion about the merits and problems of each site. All three have areas of prime farmland soil per state maps. The Tall Farm is currently being used by a LaCrosse League for practices. The Wiacek property is very wet and located next to the High School, possibly increasing the risk of vandalism. Teresa Gallagher said she verified that there is water service at the end of Longview Road for the Klapik site. Therefore the Klapik Farm off of Longview Road is currently the number one choice, recommended by both the Conservation Commission and the Mayor. Mayor Lauretti has requested a formal 8-24 review of the use change.

The farmer currently haying the property and neighboring residents on Longview Road will be invited to attend. The meeting will start at Plumb Library then, weather permitting, committee members will carpool to the three most recommended sites: Klapik Farm, Tall Farm, and Wiacek Farm.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Teresa Gallagher