



JUNE MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 17TH, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM by Chairman Steven Neale via Zoom.

ROLL CALL

Steven Neale, Danielle Zink, Kari Baureis, Will Battersby, Ina Denburg, Christine Liaukus

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

General

- In person meeting most likely not until September/October

Gardening

- Yesterday afternoon there was a garden meeting with the sub-committee
- Grant for 10K – 1 year to get it completed – it will be ready for 2021 planting season
- Soil tested 2 years ago
- School agreed open to it
- Waiting on FINAL plans from town engineer to lay it out so all of the square footage and fencing completed – fencing is key
- Meeting early next week with Mike, Chuck and Steve – separate meeting end of July with all of garden committee
- Timeline – area all free of grass and weeds, then mulch, hopefully by end of September fencing end of September early November, then lumber, Eagle scouts to build the beds – over the winter: working on the contract, need to pass a fee ordinance and an ordinance for the contract itself – two separate ordinances - can be passed simultaneously; in that contract need to make sure there is a waiver for the BOE since it is on their property – waiver for every person who is renting plot as well
- Discussion over new soil test – Kari will follow up with Christine on whether to conduct another test
- Once we do waterline (DPW), after mulch and fencing, then remove town and that is where resident volunteers and SV, come in and lay out area, come up with nice trail system, organize site, ask for donations for tools, potentially have a shed – once we have shed we can collect for tools – now is good time to collect these type of items – may need to purchase some items – Morgan's Farm will provide catalogue of high quality products
- Will look to schedule volunteer sign ups 3-5 people at a time to do work while safely maintaining social distance
- Starting with 20-25 beds; capacity could be as high as 50 beds
- Unclear how many people will take full beds – 4x12'

Composting

- Walk-through tomorrow at DPW at 2pm – site walkthrough to see if we can get a large scale food waste program in town
- Gore Cover – large gore tex bin – dump food – holds up to 100 tons and once its filled you let it sit for 90 days- affordable, low maintenance, once a month may need to be turned
- Plan is to have a drop off similar to recycling center now – could look to subsidize Java's to dump in Verona; free drop offs to Verona residents
- Working to determine cost
- Another option is to utilize greenhouse – need to store material – Gore-tex can be laid outside but ideally would be covered – looking to get full permission of the greenhouses
- Morgan's farm would be interested to lease out space in the green house
- Could also sell off compost – could be free for Verona residents – sell off remainder if certified to landscapers in the area, other farms, etc.
- Sparked by USDA grant opp – we decided not to pursue due to timeline – closes out on the 26th – national grant – heavily competitive

Trex Recycling Bin

- Received post COVID shut down
- Once town is back open will seek to re-open program
- 6 month challenge – a bin at community center and at recycling center – all plastic film (packaging, wrapping) – weekly drop offs – we are in charge of bagging it up and bringing it to the zone – most likely Wholefoods in Montclair
- Will need help in future to drive down material

Energy Efficiency

- Trying to identify ways to maximize use of funds
- Could we hire a firm to do home audits for anyone who signs up across multiple towns
- May have to go out to re-bid on program
- Maplewood is holding funds in trust account approx. \$110K for all towns
- Christine D. to follow up on home audits
- Mercer country did a very comprehensive energy outreach program – they used grant money to hire a video production team to create several clips – will see if we can repurpose
- Biggest challenge is getting landlords to care to make energy efficiency upgrades

Misc.

- Plastic ban ordinance not until the fall – anticipating pushback given COVID insights
- Library wants to do virtual program – maybe home gardening series – various topics – let Steve know if you would want to be apart of it
 - Could be opportunity for discussion about energy efficiency within the home – Christine D. volunteered to do a talk about it

REPORTS OF MEMBERS

- No reports of members were discussed during this meeting

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:34 PM. The next meeting to be scheduled will be communicated by Steven at a later date via email. Meetings will continue to be held via Zoom.

Respectfully Submitted,

Danielle Zink

Secretary