

General Membership Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2021

11:05 AM Commencement

Martha Presiding via Zoom

Attendance

Allison B.	Kristin W.	New Members: Bonnie W. Henna V. Sandra C. Sue F. Lor M.
Brian T.	Martha E.	
David C.	Penelope W.	
Din C.	Rosemarie M.	
Dolores B.	Rosemary P.	
Eirann C.	Selina R	
Elise F.	Talia R.	
Ethan D.	Traci N.	
Joanne D.	Virginia W.	
Joseph D.	Zach D.	
Judith S.		

A. Greetings and Welcome

- a. Martha briefly greeted and welcomed all before jumping into the agenda.

B. Ratify minutes from April 2021 meeting

- a. Minutes were circulated
- b. Zach moves to ratify; seconded by Traci
 - i. No opposition
 - ii. Motion carries

C. Officer Reports

a. General Administrator (Martha)

b. Treasurer (Rosemarie)

- i. Total all accounts: \$5632.99
 - 1. Checking balance is: \$2,874.65
 - 2. Paypal balance: \$2,360.34
(includes \$285 in paypal donations)
 - 3. Petty Cash: \$398.00
- ii. Earmarked Money: \$1,900.00

1. Memorial stone and engraved leaves: \$400.00
2. NYC Green Relief & Response Fund Grant: \$1,500.00
(compost leaf pavilion & chipper)

a. Grant Expenditures To Date: \$1,500+

I will work on finalizing the submission to the Grant committee.

- iii. Notable Purchases: \$734. Top soil for garden & pop up tent for sidewalk food scrap drop offs

c. Service Hours (Zach)

- i. Please remember that "Box Holders" owe 20 "Service Hours" per season to maintain their status in the following season. All other members owe 10 "Service Hours" to be in "Good Standing" the following season and keep their waitlist spot, if applicable. At least 60% of these hours must be spent during "Open Hours." The remainder can be either "Open Hours" or "Work Hours."
- ii. Not counting weather, we only missed 5 Open Hour shifts in April!
 1. Work Hours submitted prior to 4/14/21 are in the Public Status sheet; April Open Hours have been added to the Public Status sheet.
- iii. Signup for Open Hours [here](#)
- iv. Submit Work Hours [here](#)
- v. Check your Service Hours status [here](#)

d. Communications (no report)

e. Compost (Allyson, in absentia)

- i. Reminder that any garden member can sign up for CRV shifts by using this [link](#), and looking for open CRV spots. Compost members can also find back of garden shifts on the same link.
- ii. Reminder that appropriate compostable items for the back of garden list can be found on the website (and differs slightly from what is accepted in the front via BigReuse)
- iii. Community members can now drop off compost during Open Hours. Video to be made with instructions (what items can be accepted, having the person chop up scraps, cut up any compostable bags, etc.)

1. Plan is to have the bins moved from the front of the garden on Mondays, leaving one for Open Hours community drop-off.
2. Virginia W. raised concern about the gap hour between end of Food Scrap Drop Off and beginning of Sunday Open Hours and the inevitable latecomers that spill in past the 1pm end time. Clarification was made that this was intentional to give some breathing room and space for all involved to transition from one to the other. Should always feel comfortable to turn people away until posted hours if you're not able/comfortable to receive them.

f. Boxes (Anna, in absentia)

- i. Box Holders are responsible for 20 hours of service (at least 12 of which as open hours), attend 3 meetings, and pay dues.
- ii. Waitlist members who are sharing or in the back sharing beds will remain on the list and are responsible for 10 service hours (at least 6 of which as open hours), attend 1 meeting, and pay dues.
- iii. This season we were able to get members on the waitlist who joined in March of last year into garden plots as box holders, sharers, and loaners! That is a phenomenal turn around!
- iv. Waitlist is updated and members can find their position on the waitlist and their service hours status on the PHCFarm website by following the link under Membership Status.
- v. Box holders are reminded to tend not only their plot but also the pathways around their boxes. As the season progresses we want to keep the areas around the boxes clear for easy and safe passage.

g. BANG Land Trust (Judith)

- i. Introduced BANG, for the benefit of prospective members.
- ii. Next meeting May 25th 7:45 PM. All invited.

h. Master Gardener (Traci, Catherine, Virginia)

- i. Lumber delivery Thurs. 5/20/21 bet 8-10am: Call for volunteers to receive.
- ii. Plant Sale this weekend, 1:30 - 6 pm this Saturday and Sunday!
- iii. Post-Bloom Pruning Group Gardening Day to sched in June - Catherine will put out a call soon.
- iv. Unsure of plant ID? See [Weed ID](#) or email a photo to Master Gardeners
- v. Water Permit for 2021 season completed.

- vi. Please take finished compost from green totes (from BigReuse/City)
- vii. Victory Garden kicks off their season tomorrow, Sunday am.
- viii. Stewards: Two areas are still available
- ix. Reminder: use thorns bin (silver can by shed) for prickly prunings
- x. Do **NOT** compost: Ivy, knotweed, diseased plants, weeds with seeds

D. Continuing & New Business

- a. Changes to Service Hours Guidelines page (vote)
 - i. Zach proposed Changes to Service Hours Guidelines including edits that reflect the new signup process via signup.com, etc. Brief discussion.
 - ii. Zach moves to vote on proposed Changes to Service Hours Guidelines; Virginia seconds.
 - 1. Opposed: None
 - 2. Motion passes
- b. Board Requirement / Limiting months for joining
 - i. Martha proposed establishing a board participation membership requirement for box holders to ensure that board positions are filled by a rotating group of members and not by the same people year after year, which causes burn out and isn't fair.
 - 1. Discussion
 - a. Zach reminded the membership that Service Hours requirements are halved for board members.
 - b. Rosemary suggested all Service Hrs be forgiven as further incentive.
 - c. Traci voiced concern over everyone's ability to discharge such duties.
 - d. Martha noted that Board reaction initially was lukewarm.
 - e. Topic tabled for further discussion.
 - ii. Martha proposed that finding ways to eliminate Board work could be an alternative. One idea is limiting the months that new members can join because new membership administration is onerous.
 - 1. Discussion
 - a. Judith in support, suggests conducting a trial this year.
 - b. Zach suggests community volunteer days to bridge the gap between limiting membership and engaging volunteership.
 - c. Traci: Research how other gardens limit members. Revisit in October.

- d. Virginia supports an overall cap to membership.
 - e. Topic tabled for further discussion.
 - c. Masks in the Garden & In-person meetings
 - i. Dolores B proposes that we offer in-person meetings again, citing recent changes to CDC guidelines for outdoors/masks, as well as to boost morale and help with greater participation.
 - 1. Discussion
 - a. Selina R cites concern over access and ability to observe social distancing.
 - b. Brian T suggested a hybrid option which Phil and others noted would require a noise cancelling microphone, a strong internet connection and member willingness to donate phone data.
 - c. Judith S. offered to create and disseminate a survey to gauge feedback regarding Masks and In-Person Meetings.
 - d. Watering hours
 - i. Dolores B proposes that we institute Watering Hours, including creating a Watering Team to give the garden a good, regular soaking.
 - ii. Training required and that this is a two-person job.
 - iii. Traci notes timing of watering/hydrant use: a balance of traffic on weekdays (school busses) vs weekends (Open Streets)
 - e. Ceramic Signage proposal for beds - Tabled for lack of time.

E. Announcements

- a. Next Meeting: Sunday June 13, 2021 at 4:00pm to 5:00 pm
- b. Check [here](#) for quick guidelines on requirements for membership
- c. We received TWO native bee hives from the Bee Conservancy Sponsor-A-Hive program, which will be installed Tuesday, 5/18/21 at 5 pm. Come and help!

F. Adjournment

- a. Zach moved to adjourn; Joey seconds. All in favor!

Meeting concludes 12:15 PM

Minutes by Brian T.