



River Bend Community Organic Garden & Education Center

Town of River Bend • 45 Shoreline Drive • River Bend • North Carolina • 28562 • 252.638.3870

Draft Meeting Minutes – March 6, 2023

Present: Robin Beilby, Jackie Herbster, Denise Kelly, Judi Lloyd, Linda Martin, Barbara Maurer, Chris Organ, Dee Smith, Ellen Serra and Councilman James Castranova.

The meeting was called to order at 1:31 pm by Ms. Maurer.

Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: All members received and reviewed the February 6, 2023 meeting minutes. Ms. Kelly made a motion to approve the minutes and the motion was seconded by Ms. Lloyd. The motion was approved unanimously.

Council Report: None.

Financial Report: Ms. Lloyd presented the financial report.

Garden Update: Mr. Organ has hooked up the irrigation system and is ready for the season. Ms. Smolinski was able to secure a load of horse manure. Ms. Smith reported that Maple Springs Tree Service will not be a source for wood chips. She mentioned that the Extension Office had purchased wood chips from Tuscarora. Ms. Maurer will research this source for wood chips. Ms. Smith reported that several varieties of lettuce, kale, swiss chard and carrots have been planted in Row 1, along with some herbs in the herb garden. Our garden neighbors, Dustin and Heather, have offered the garden a table with a sink. Ms. Smith will investigate further and, if suitable for use outdoors, Mr. Organ has agreed to install and hook-up. Ms. Kelly reported that the bees are doing well. They are bringing in nectar and laying larva. Ms. Kelly indicated she might be able to do a spring harvest of honey. Ms. Smith will order a new "Caution" sign for the bee area. Ms. Smith reported that the Green Team planted asclepias seeds in the milk jugs and prepared Row 1 for planting. Ms. Beilby reported that she has located a source for hay from Ms. Barbara Moore. Ms. Beilby made a motion to purchase approximately 25 bales of hay. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lloyd and the motion was approved unanimously.

Old Business:

Carolina Nature Coalition ("CNC") Presentation: The presentation went well, and Ms. Kelly and Ms. Smolinski did a great job. There were approximately 25 attendees and the presentation can be viewed on the CNC website.

7th Garden Roundtable Workshop: The workshop was a success and received positive feedback. There were approximately 50 in attendance.

Spring Planting: Ms. Beilby reported that some seeds have been planted at Ken Garner's greenhouse, and she and Ms. Smolinski will be planting more seeds on March 7th.

Craven County Community College (VOLT Program): This item is currently on hold.

New Business:

Garden Workday: A garden workday is scheduled for Saturday, March 25th at 9:00 am to weed and prepare beds for planting.

Future Workshops: After discussion, it was decided to conduct future workshops quarterly.

There being no further business, Ms. Lloyd made a motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Ms. Beilby. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:24 pm.

Submitted by,
Jackie Herbster, Secretary