



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 July 6, 2026

Present: Hadley Cheris, Becky DeMars, Arwen Gibson, Jackie Herbster, JoAnna Kloster, Judi Lloyd, Barbara Maurer, Chris Organ and Ellen Serra

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 pm by Ms. Maurer.

Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: All members received and reviewed the 6/1/26 meeting minutes. Ms. Lloyd made a motion to approve the minutes and the motion was seconded by Ms. DeMars. The motion was approved unanimously.

Financial Report: Ms. Lloyd presented the financial report from Friends of River Bend Community Organic Garden.

Garden Update: Ms. Maurer reported labor hours for the month of June totaled 140 hours with 12% of the hours consisting of administrative hours. The year-to-date hours total 783. Ms. Maurer reported that the harvest for June totaled 211 pounds. This growing season this year has been challenging because of late planting and intense temperatures playing roles. Another challenge has been the voles. Ms. Gibson reported that her father grows Mole plants and would be willing to donate some of these plants to help us in the effort to eradicate the vole issue. The Fertilizing Schedule has been revised and is posted on the bulletin board above the work desk. Ms. Gaskins, Ms. Gibson and Ms. Cheris will be meeting on July 22nd to discuss the Monarch program and how the garden moves forward in this endeavor. Ms. Herbster reported that her research has revealed that Eastern Swallowtails (“EST”) are not affected by OE. All the gardeners agreed to continue in raising ESTs going forward. Ms. Gibson reported that she has developed a Facebook page to promote the Swap A Plant program. It is called River Bend Plant Exchange at RBCOG. To date, there are 38 followers. RBCOG gardeners are encouraged to follow. Ms. Herbster reported that workdays are scheduled for July 11th and 25th beginning at 6:30 am.

Old Business: Due to a miscommunication, the Garden did not participate in the 2026 Fourth of July parade.

New Business:

Election: Ms. Herbster made a motion to nominate Ms. Maurer as Chair Person, Ms. Serra as Vice Chair Person and Ms. Kloster as Secretary. The motion was seconded by Ms. DeMars and the motion was approved unanimously.

September Meeting: The September meeting falls on Labor Day this year. Therefore, the September meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 8, 2026 at 2:30 pm.

Plant Specialists: Ms. Maurer suggested this concept whereby each gardener would become a specialist of a certain vegetable and educate the other gardeners regarding this vegetable including planting, maintenance, diseases and harvesting. This concept will be discussed at future meetings.

There being no further business, Ms. DeMars made a motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Ms. Gibson. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 3, 2026 at 1:30 pm.

Submitted by,

Jackie Herbster, Secretary