

SHUNIAH SOIL MATES COMMUNITY GARDENS

MINUTES OF MEETING APRIL 19, 2018 AT 6:30 pm

In attendance - 20

1. No matters arose from minutes of last meeting of January 19th.
2. Peter extended our thanks to Gordon Milne for applying to Fiskar Orange Thumb Garden Credits. We were not chosen to receive any awards but we will try again.
3. Four new raised garden boxes and reconstruction of the garden box #32 - enabled greatly by the very kind donation from Northern Credit Union (1 increment of \$500 already received and another \$500 cheque to be received soon.)

-Procurement of sufficient cedar lumber proved to be a challenge as the lumber yards advised that no cedar logs had been harvested or delivered this winter. But eventually Peter tracked down enough from Don Murray's lumber yard and Garden Lake Timber to complete our projects. We were fortunate to be quoted prices that were much more economical than other sources in Thunder Bay.

-Garden box #32 - Peter and Diane will prefab the lumber in his shop ready for final assembly at the site. We will be asking for a work party to break down the existing box and help put the new box together. Date will be notified by email soon. The assistance of a pick-up truck to transport the prefab pieces to the garden site would be appreciated.

-A drawing of the design of the 4 new boxes was included with the agenda. They are 4' x 8' and 24" high. There will be a sitting ledge around the top. As the box is deeper, we had a discussion about partly filling the bottom with material other than soil. We considered several options including Styrofoam packing peanuts (as seen on TV), deadfall wood from wooded area or gravel. It was decided to utilize gravel and, at Ron Giardetti's suggestion, Peter will approach Craig Bauman to see if we could get some from the maintenance yard. Rob Marsh and Peter will go to Don Murray's yard to pick up our lumber order when we are notified that it is ready. The soil to fill the boxes will be triple mix. TD Owens was recommended.

-We will be calling for work parties for prefabricating and cutting lumber at the Tracz shop and for the assembling and filling the boxes at the garden site. At that time we will also set up the rain barrel, etc. for the season.

5. Garden box #1 - The Josh Klukie Memorial Garden - Trish Somerleigh has very generously taken on the project of redesigning this garden. Trish knew Josh and his family well. She would really like to design it to Josh's tastes and will consult with Carol Klukie. Apparently Josh loved sunflowers and so that will be part of the theme for the garden. Trish has friends that are willing to donate perennials

and help and she has some herself. Her husband (Robert) offered to build an obelisk for a central ornamental feature. Peter offered Cedar wood from his shop for the project. Peter stated that there would also be funds available from the membership account. Ron Giardetti mentions that he would source getting some funds for Trish's project. More information to follow as the project develops.

6. Herb garden #2 - Trish Somerleigh and Diane Tracz are undertaking the fertilizing and planting of the herbs and seeds in this garden. Peter stated that \$150 is available from the Soil Mates account to buy the manure, peat moss and plants. The purpose of this garden is to donate to food banks and kitchens. We have some offers of perennial herbs from private gardens. Trish is suggesting 5 bags of manure and 1 peat for each of the beds #1 and #2 to replenish. Trish had an excellent drawing of a planting plan for all to study.

7. Water distribution system - In the agenda Peter included a drawing of the plan to upgrade our watering system. We will be using the \$600 budgeted from Shuniah Council to purchase the needed hoses and fittings. The design shows one main line from our existing standpipe nearest the shed to extend along the north fence. From that we will have 4 tributary branch lines all extending to the south fence. We will call for a work party for this as well.

8. It was suggested that we have surplus lumber to build a bench for the west end of the garden at some time.

9. Roots to Harvest "Garden like a Pro" seminar attendees gave a presentation regarding the 4 x 2 hr. workshop. Karen Neimi-Stevens and Gordon Milne spoke and Karen read Jen Turner's notes as Jen was not able to attend. As with last years attendees, they all enjoyed and got a lot out of the seminar and recommend it highly. Peter attended the seminar on Composting at the Waverley library by the same folks from "Sleepy G Farm". Our new compost station first section needs to be reworked by using compost and dry materials in layers in the ratio of 1" to 6" and the overall "time to use period" is about 1 to 1 1/2 years.

10 Peter showed us several slides of the design of the new garden boxes and the watering system plan.

11. Vincent Ng is the new chairman of the Thunder Bay Combined Community Gardens. Peter will attend their meeting on April 30 at the Regional Public Health Center.

12. Free seed packets from Roots to Harvest were available to the attendees.

13. Peter is suggesting a target of May 29 (as this is the closest to the "first full moon in June") to officially begin our 2018 planting season.

14. As of this close of the meeting, all 36 beds are claimed, all memberships (3 new) are paid up and registration forms are filed. Well done everyone. Happy Gardening!

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.