

Eco Gardeners March 20, 2023 Minutes of Meeting

1. Quorum

13 members were in attendance, constituting a quorum (10 required).

2. Minutes of February Meeting

The minutes of the February 2023 meeting were read and approved.

3. Treasurer's Report

a. Opening Balance	\$1668.82
b. Income	\$ 200.00
c. Expenses	\$ 00.00
d. Closing Balance	\$1868.82

Old Business

4. Arlene Smith provided an update regarding replacement by OTOW of the raised bed wood:

- Theresa Fields advised that OTOW reviewed the wood currently in the plot and concluded that only 2-3 plots contained wood that needed replacement.
- The Eco Gardeners Board believes the number of plots requiring wood replacement is higher.
- The board will engage Theresa to discuss & negotiate the number of plots that OTOW could provide assistance replacing the wood.

New Business

5. Item 9 of the "Policies and Procedures document was discussed regarding the allowance of liquid or granular herbicides in the garden plots. A motion was made and passed to ban the use of any herbicides. The revised item 9 is shown below, with the word "Herbicide" deleted from the third line. The deletion is highlighted in red strikeout text.

Herbicides such as Roundup are prohibited because they may filter into gardens adjacent to the plot tended. Insecticides/herbicides in powdered/dust form are banned from use in the garden as these can drift onto your neighbor's plot (liquid or granular insecticides/~~herbicides~~ are acceptable). Members shall not apply anything to plots not their own unless given permission by plot's owner.

6. Jeff Bell provided a demonstration of the new club website. The comments were:

- Provide a satellite view of the garden location instead of a map, provided the "zoom" is not so large as to make the garden location within OTOW unclear.
- Inclusion of pictures/presentations on the website is not limited to the board. Members may submit photos & presentations via email for inclusion into the website.
- The website is nominally scheduled to be updated once a month, preferably within a week of the club meeting, for the purpose of including the minutes of the meeting, as well as any decisions taken during the meeting.
- The practicality of a "Members Only" page within the website requiring a member login was discussed. The following items of interest were identified:
 - Members would like a chat room function to be able to advise & discuss with other members the possibility of "Trading Plants"; possible "Trips to Nurseries, Farms & Orchards", "Disposal of Excess Tools" & other activities. Jeff Bell will look into this & include it into the website, provided the programming is not too difficult. If the programming is difficult, we can look at a "Groupworks" account for the club, which seems to include a "Chat Room" function. This account is available through OTOW a little or no cost. Jeff will advise at the April meeting.

- ii. Consider providing a map of the garden plots, possibly including names phone numbers & email addresses of the club members. Members will be able to opt out of including their email address & phone number in the map. Arlene Smith will poll the members to determine if anyone would like to opt out.
7. The pot luck is scheduled for the April club meeting beginning at 12:30 pm. Members will be solicited to determine the number of expected attendees, as well as the dish they would like to bring.
8. Phil presented brief information to the club regarding pesticides that are acceptable for use in the garden plots. He noted that all of the acceptable materials have a short life on the plants and in the soil (no “forever chemicals”). A longer, more detailed write-up of the acceptable pesticides will be posted to the club website for perusal by the members.
9. Sandy Wannemacher volunteered to assist in the Flower Garden.

Remarks for the Good of the Club

10. Non-maintenance of garden plots discussed. The issues focused on the accumulation of weeds, rodents and ants due to neglect or inappropriate sheet coverings (clear or dark plastic, tarps etc.) Comments were made that membership in the club requires year-round maintenance of the garden plot. A number of members noted that plot owners were responsible for plot maintenance regardless of health or year-round residence in OTOW. Owners were responsible for engaging someone to provide plot maintenance when there was a health or residence issue. The board will take up the issue at the next board meeting for the purpose of proposing the appropriate course of action to resolve this issue.
11. Structures in the garden was discussed, regarding minimum requirements and limitations. No decision was taken at the meeting. However, the board noted that previously “junk mattress box springs” were used as a trellis. While it worked as a trellis, it gave the garden plot area an unattractive appearance. The board will take up this issue with respect to attractiveness and safety and make a recommendation to the membership for their approval at a future club meeting.