

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 6:30 pm

Town Hall, 40 Center Street

Fairhaven, Massachusetts

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ann Richard at 6:30pm, via Zoom

Present: Chairperson Ann Richard, Karen Gent, Susan Spooner, Wendy Drumm, Christin Ritz, Tim Garcia, and Bruce Webb

Guests from Public : Mona Phillips

CHAIR PERSON'S WELCOME AND MEDIA NOTIFICATION

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT read by Ann Richard

Minutes

Christin Ritz points out a correction from the January minutes. Motion to approve the minutes for the January 2023 and February 2023 meetings by Tim Garcia and seconded by Wendy. Approved by roll call (5-0).

Bills- Community Garden & Reusable Bags bills

Ann asks Bruce to explain to the committee about the bills and how to do that moving forward. Bruce- The two bills for the community garden there was a purchase of lumber from Delano Lumber and there was a purchase of other Goods or there is a planned purchase of other Goods related to the Community Garden project Going forward anything from the sustainability committee is going to purchase it has to be an agenda item that is voted on and approved. As long as a retailer has a vendor number already with the town then the purchase can be made and reimbursed. If they do not have a vendor number the purchase has to go through myself (Bruce) or Kelly Camara who can then use the department credit card to make the purchase and then submit the invoice. If a purchase needs to be made email Bruce first and he can check that they have a vendor number and if they don't he can coordinate with you to make the purchase with the staff credit card.

Ann reviews we have two items we need to vote on the first one we discussed at the last meeting about purchasing reusable bags and she got a quote on that which we have from a company called Custom Earth Promotions and in order to purchase 500 reusable lime green bags with our seal on it it would be \$651 total. In our budget right now we have about \$1,600. We need an official vote for this to move forward.

Susan asks the bag material and if we got a bulk deal? They are a non-woven promotional bag, the price decreased by ordering more, they are not canvas but still a quality material that can be used for groceries.

Wendy asks are we going to sell these or hand them out at the meeting? The Hope was to hand them out at town meeting.

Susan recalls Wendy mentioning something about purchasing an advertisement in the neighborhood news in advance of the town meeting and is happy to chip in and help out with that. We could do an ad with a headline that says "it's in the bag!" and play with that.

Ann says we could do a free press release and Beth David would definitely put something in before Town Meeting. We don't need to purchase an ad.

Christin asks what is our source of revenue? We've had that same \$1,600 dollars in there for years but when we spend it, how do we get it back?

Ann answers that the community garden spends money because they take in money so if you have a community garden plot and you basically rent a spot from the town. There's a cost of about \$10 so that money adds up. The other money that's in there is from donations and also when we had the farmers market originally we charged the fee for all of the vendors. We don't spend a lot of money but we do accept donations both monetary and supplies.

Christin makes a motion to approve the \$651.11 for the reusable bags seconded by Tim, approved by roll call vote (4-0), Susan abstained.

Next item is a bill for \$302.40 which has not been purchased but the community garden would like to purchase some wood and some other items. The wood typically comes from Delano Sawmill in Dartmouth which is a local sawmill and then other items they're able to get other places like steel fencing and padlocks for the sheds and fence posts. This \$302 is for all of those items and Lisa Elliott is requesting this, she is in charge of the community garden and they plan to start working on April 22nd and 23rd at Wood School to get the beds ready.

Susan asks if there is fencing and locks from previous years? Ann answers yes, around each of the 3 Community Gardens but there's been deterioration over the years and some of the wood that they get at the Sawmill is not pressure treated so they're getting some posts that are pressure treated as replacement. They're getting padlocks as opposed to key locks because if they get a key lock they have to make a key for every Community garden member with the padlock they just have to give up the code.

Wendy motions to spend \$302.40 for this community garden purchase, seconded by Susan. Approved by roll call (5-0).

Native Plants- No Lawn Event- Millicent Library- April 26th 6pm

Ann speaks, we have discussed this for maybe 6 months about having a discussion and talk on native gardening and no lawns. There were other names that were out there and this is a local woman who lives in Fairhaven. She owns a business in New Bedford and she was willing to do