

River Bend Community Organic Garden & Education Center
Town of River Bend · 45 Shoreline Drive · River Bend · North Carolina · 28562 · 252.638.3870

Meeting Minutes – October 3, 2022

Present: Robin Beilby, Jackie Herbster, Denise Kelly, Joanna Kloster, Barbara Maurer, Chris Organ, Dee Smith and Mary Smolinski

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 August 1, 2022 meeting minutes. Ms. Kelly made a motion to approve the minutes and the motion was seconded by Ms. Beilby. The motion was approved unanimously.

Council Report: Ms. Maurer gave a brief overview of Town Council actions and activities.

Financial Report: Ms. Maurer presented the financial report. Ms. Lloyd has agreed to take over the Treasurer duties in light of Ms. Theis's resignation.

Garden Update: Ms. Maurer reported that as of 9/10/2022 the garden has harvested over 2,000 pounds of vegetables, 53 pounds of herbs, and has donated approximately 230 pounds of produce to Interfaith Refugee Ministries. These figures indicate that RBCOG has met its mission by donating approximately 10% of its harvest to charity. Between January 1 – September 10, 2022, 1,290 labor and administrative hours have been logged. Ms. Kelly reported that the bees are doing fine. A full inspection has been completed and the mite treatment removed. There was no damage from Tropical Storm Ian, and the bees are ready to be winterized. Ms. Maurer announced that Ms. Kelly is now the President of the Craven/Pamlico Bee Club. Ms. Smith reported that Ms. Maurer has prepared the planting schedule for the Spring of 2023. In this plan, planting rows will be rotated and every other row will be dormant for the Spring planting season. Ms. Smith also reported that RKN was detected in the yard long beans and the watermelon; however, the addition of the shrimp and crab meal has helped. The seeds purchased from Johnny's Seeds didn't meet expectations so research will be done to find another seed vendor for next year. Fall planting has been completed and lettuce, arugula, kale and radishes are ready for harvest. Fall planting also included beets, rutabagas and turnips. On September 28th, the Green Team (14 students) amended Row 6 and planted garlic. The next Green Team event is scheduled for 10/5/2022. Ms. Smith reported that approximately 65 Monarchs have been released this year.

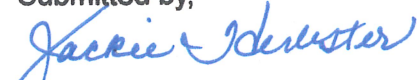
Old Business: With regard to the Greenhouse Project, Mr. Organ reported that the flooring has been laid and sealed. The platform for the furnace has been constructed. Still need to be purchased are the batteries, propane tanks and solar panels. Mr. Organ will provide an itemized list of the remaining items to be purchase along with the cost associated with the purchases at the November meeting. Ms. Smith reported that the greenhouse will need to be used once the sweet potatoes and peanuts have been harvested and should be available by mid-November at which time the project can move forward. A question was posed regarding permitting for this project. Ms. Smolinski provided information that Craven County will need to inspect the solar system and provide a permit. There will be a fee associated with the inspection and permitting process. Ms. Maurer will discuss this issue with Town Manager Jackson and Ms. Beilby will contact Craven County regarding permitting procedures.

New Business: Ms. Smith reported that Interfaith Refugee Ministries are thankful and grateful for all of the produce donations it has received from RBCOB. It has informed Ms. Smith that its clientele has changed. It still has clientele from Asia, but now has clientele from South America and the Congo. This new clientele has the need for hot peppers, sweet potatoes and tomatillos. After discussion, it was decided to plant these items, along with yard long beans, bitter melon and okra for donating. IRM also informed Ms. Smith that it

would like to do an article about RBCOG to be distributed on a national level about our mission and that RBCOG plants specific produce catered to its clientele. It is a great honor and we should all be proud.

There being no further business, Ms. Beilby made a motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Ms. Kelly. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 pm.

Submitted by,


Jackie Herbster, Secretary