

Shutesbury Recreation Committee Meeting

Via Zoom

January 14, 2021

1:30 pm

Present: BZ Reilly, Barbara Bigelow, Elaine Puleo, Christine Robinson, Christine Marglin

Guest: Meryl Mandell, representing the Shutesbury garden club

BZ called the meeting to order at 1:37 pm.

Agenda

1: Approve Minutes from previous meeting

2: Discuss and finalize Community Preservation Plan application for garden project

3: Other items unanticipated by chair

Minutes from last meeting approved.

BZ, Elaine and Barbara walked the land behind town hall for planing purposes on Monday.

We need to clarify the goals for our application, and ways to measure each goal.

Goals:

Provide gardens for people who don't have feasible land or want to garden in community

Strengthen community bonds

Create recreational opportunities

Promote Cross generational teaching - this impacts the wider community, not only those who are gardening. We could develop and promote programs, for example, for the SES students to do science projects possible.

Farmconcrete.com: a website resource that we can utilize in assessing whether we reach our goals.

Barbara has good estimates on soil and fencing, and learned about rabbit fencing and green fencing.

The garden club might be able to find some volunteers for our project. Christine R talked with Tim and Steve from the highway department, who are willing to till the land.

We will need to pay for some labor, removing top layer of thatch and rocks, and putting in soil.

The sunlight is good in the far left corner of the field behind town hall, where we plan to create the garden. This is the best location overall in town, and that part of the field is the only feasible part of the land behind town hall to use. We are assuming that a water tank regularly refilled by the FD will provide water, as is done in Pelham. Garden carts will be purchased for gardeners' use. A galvanized steel shed would also be very useful for tools and supplies.

Since funds won't be available until July 1, it is unlikely that the gardens will be up and running this year. We can do a lot of work to have things ready for the following spring, spring of 2022.

Meryl notes that compost should be mixed into soil when soil is out down at the start.

We will prepare for 12 beds, though only eight may be created the first year.

70' x 54' is the total area planned for.

Under the thatch, there will be rocks. In a foot of soil and compost, root vegetables will be difficult or impossible. Meryl suggests some extra compost and soil for those who need it. We should also get some heavy duty tarp to discourage weeds if we won't be planting until 2022.

Budget issues: increase soil and compost to cover 12 beds

Wood chip delivery; \$125 per delivery from Megan's Valley for wood chips

Water

Fencing: outside green fencing, rabbit fencing, zip ties, chain link gate

Steel shed: \$319

Picnic table: to promote community

Hose, 150 feet

One or more areas for composting

Deer fencing

Two-three garden carts, probably medium sized

One thousand dollars for small items we can't anticipate precisely at the outset.

Total budget for materials and delivery is likely \$8000. There is also labor, perhaps local teens to pick rocks. Hiring local teens is another community benefit from the project.

Letters in support of the application: from Meryl and the garden committee; from Mary Anne and from the school, which BZ will be responsible for; from the highway department, which Christine R will be responsible for.

Elaine and Barbara will complete the application, which we will review next week.

Next meeting: January 21 at 2:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned by BZ at 2:34.

From Barbara:

Community Garden Budget:

Assumptions:

- Beds will be 10' x 20'
- Start with 8 beds
- The depth of soil/compost for each bed will be 1'
 - Each bed will require 7.5 cubic yards of soil & compost
- Soil to compost is 2:1
 - Soil = 5 cubic yards per bed
 - Compost = 2.5 cubic yards per bed
- Fencing will accommodate an additional 4 beds
- A 4' fence is adequate to keep deer out in an open area. Trivia that may or may not be true: deer do not have perspective and sense a barrier but not its height unless a tall plant is situated right next to the fence.

Prices do not include tax. Does town have to pay tax?

Soil (40 cu yd)	920.00
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Compost (20 cu yd)	1,500.00
Water tank, gravity fed, 1000 gallons	800
Wood chips between beds (10 cu yds)	110.00
Delivery – see note (1)	
Water tank, gravity fed, 1000 gallons	800.00
Fence – see note (2)	765.00
Wheelbarrow (True Temper 6’ cubic steel with flat free tire & steel handles ... this brand tends to be rated highly)	200.00
Shed – see note (3)	(2)
Picnic table -- see note (3)	(3)
Current total	5095.00

Notes:

(1) Megan’s Valley charges \$125 to deliver. I do not know if that is by truckload or order

(2) Fencing (totals rounded):

a. Perimeter of the fence is 248 feet. Lowe’s \$66.98 for 50’ x 4’; need 250’ = \$335

b. Need 6’ t-post every 6’. Lowe’s t-post is \$4.18; need 42 = \$145

c. Rabbit guard – Origin Point 28” x 50’ is \$39.99; need 250’ = \$200

d. 8’ zip ties to secure fence to post, bag of 500 = \$5.00

e. For gate:

i. Two 4x4x8 cedar or pressure treated posts – used cedar in above budget:

1. Cedar is \$37.98 x 2=\$80.00

2. Pressured treated is \$13.57 x 2 = \$27.

ii. Priced a 4’ x 4’ galvanized steel gate from Yardgard for \$60

(3) What size shed should we get and do we want metal, wood, or plastic

a. Size: Needs to hold one or two wheelbarrows plus whatever gardening tools participants wish to store there.

b. Material: Galvanized steel sheds are inexpensive. A 10’ x 8’ galvanized steel shed at Lowes’ is \$319 and a 10’ x 12’ is \$459. Wood sheds are much more,

starting at around \$2500 for similar sizes. A plastic 11' x 9' is \$1400

- (4) If one of the goals is to promote community, we should have a place for people to gather. The price of picnic tables varies widely depending on whether it is commercial grade. Standard, noncommercial tables start at about \$150.