

POSH SQUASH STEERING COMMITTEE

Minutes: March 04, 2021

Due to the shelter-in-place orders, this meeting was conducted entirely via Zoom.

Glenn Meade called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM. In attendance were Barbara Gomes, Bill Snyder, Bill Mutch, Dennis Petersen, Eileen Kallaway, Glenn Meade, Harriet Rose, Jeanne Walker, Jeff Blair, Jim Nybakken, Les Grober, Marcia Nybakken, Paul Mundy, Tristan Colson, and Ursula Waskey. Also attending as a visitor was Maria Bardini-Perkins.

1. **Approval of Agenda and Minutes:** Tristan
 - a. The February 2021 Meeting Agenda was approved.
 - b. The January 2020 Steering Committee Minutes were approved as submitted.

2. **Posting of Minutes to Website:**
 - a. The committee reviewed an email summarizing the discussion of this topic, sent by Les and included at the end of these minutes.
 - b. A vote was taken and it was agreed to post the minutes of the Steering Committee to the poshsquash.org website monthly, following the recommendations of the email.
 - c. Minutes will not be posted until they have been approved. The committee receives the draft minutes approximately one week after the meeting, and may request any changes before they are approved at the next meeting.
 - d. While changes may be requested right up until the moment the minutes are approved, it is requested that any changes be brought up as soon as possible after the draft minutes are sent out.

3. **Chair's Report:** Glenn
 - a. There are currently 108 members in the garden. We will allow more new members before the end of March.
 - b. If Day Leaders know of any past members who were hesitant to return to the garden because they thought they would be here only part of the time, it may be appropriate to allow them to return, now that we know we are not oversubscribed.
 - c. We want to reinforce the rule that the access road to the garden that goes through the Baker property is strictly for large deliveries, and should not be used by gardeners for any other purpose (such as dropping off compost, etc). Sea Ranch Supply, F&R, and the PortaPotty maintenance people may use this road, as well as gardeners dropping off large and heavy amounts of supplies. Please drive VERY SLOWLY when using this access – it is a dirt road, and there may be children, dogs, etc in the area.

4. **Treasurer's Report/Budget:** Marcia
 - a. Profit and Loss report is in appendix.
 - b. Budget was approved at last meeting.

5. **Planting Team:** Jeanne
 - a. Full report attached at end of these minutes.
 - b. Please do not put dangerous/prickly/thorny things (like blackberry canes) into the long-term pile. They should be taken to the haulaway pile.

- c. Note that weedcloth should be used in a SINGLE layer only, and will not go to the edges of the path.
- d. The blue flags in beds mean DO NOT WEED. There have been issues in the past with seedlings being pulled out along with the weeds.
- e. Remember that day leaders in later days need to review the emails we all send about what our team accomplished that day, so they can plan their days. Please format the list you send as follows: clearly indicate the bed/task number, sort the list in the same order as it appears in the chore list, and simply indicate whether completed or partially completed. Do not include your weekly maintenance tasks in this list. For your email, do a reply-to-all from the previous day's version of the same email so that all the information is kept together.
- f. We discussed a proposal to each update a shared online version of the chore list instead of sending emails, but it was ultimately decided that more day leaders preferred emails.
- g. When mowing the beds, please be sure to set the mower height appropriately so that the beds gets a very short "buzz cut".

6. Water Team: Bill S.

- a. Please report any leaks to the water team, including information about the equipment that is leaking.

7. Project Team: Jim

- a. The side panel for the Hoop House has been installed.
- b. Work continues on keeping the bunny rabbits out of the garden.
- c. There was a comment that the chips north of the old greenhouse may need a retaining wall. Jeanne commented that since they will ultimately contribute to the soil, it is not a big deal if some of them fall down the hill.

8. Rules and Procedures: Les, Glenn

- a. The official position of the Posh Squash regarding parking on Timber Ridge (using the south garden entrance) is that in order to be good neighbors to residents on that street, we should avoid parking there as much as possible. This means scheduling trips to the garden during SRS open hours and using the north entrance.
- b. There was an incident recently where a member of the garden was reprimanded for picking a large amount of broccoli, and apparently continued to pick even after the request to adhere to garden limits was made. The day leaders of that person said that they are taking this very seriously, and have been discussing it with the member in question.
- c. The primary topic under discussion here was how to react to this, with a strong proposal to terminate the gardener's membership if this occurs twice (e.g. one warning, and the termination).
- d. There was a great deal of discussion after this, mostly related to the general topic of picking limits, who is not paying attention to them, how to change the process of picking, how to communicate what is appropriate, etc.
- e. Les will write up a summary of this issue, and propose a recommendation, and we will discuss at the next meeting.

- f. The planting team would like to be sure that all gardeners receive the Crop News (and probably the Chore List as well) before their actual garden day. We know that some day leaders forward this information to their gardeners via email, but there is now a request that all day leaders please be sure to forward these documents to their gardeners.
- g. As a backup, the documents will also always be available on the website by the previous Sunday.

9. Tool Use/Abuse: Les, Glenn

- a. There have been some issues recently with the treatment of our power tools (mowers, weeders), and dayleaders are requested to identify people that know how to use the equipment properly.
- b. There is a proposal to switch to electric tools, which was received favorably. The considerations are:
 - * Need to identify one brand, so that all batteries are compatible
 - * Start with electric trimmers
 - * Multiple batteries will be necessary
 - * Les will discuss with SRS whether we arrange with them to charge batteries at their facility
- c. There was also a question about whether solar panels could be set up in the garden to charge tools; it isn't clear if anyone knows enough about solar to know if this is feasible.

10. Comments/Questions: All

- a. None.

11. Next Meeting and Adjournment:

- a. The next meeting will be on Thursday April 1, 2020 at 1:30 pm, via Zoom.
- b. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:08 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tristan Colson, Secretary

Appendix 1: Summary and Recommendation Regarding Posting of SC Minutes

Posting of Minutes to Website (March 2021 Posh Squash SC Mtg)

The question of whether we should post Steering Committee (SC) minutes on the Posh Squash website was discussed at the February SC meeting, along with the related topic of what information is appropriate to post on the website. Following is a summary of discussion and recommendation.

Cons to posting the minutes include:

1. It might not be desirable to post information on certain topics such as: 2020 parking issues on Tiber Ridge Road; financial information since posting this and other similar info may be helpful for someone trying to sue the garden.
2. Since the minutes don't get officially approved until the following meeting (one month later), posting them on the website is not a timely way of providing information to gardeners.

Pros:

1. Although not timely, posting the minutes is a communication tool for gardeners to see that issues important to them are discussed
2. Provides an easily accessible record and memory of discussion topics for Steering Committee members and general membership that can be used to direct discussions in later months and years
3. Post the budget is a good way to show members where their dues are going, and demonstrate how much of the budget is spent on water and seeds.

At the February meeting it was generally agreed that:

1. Sensitive discussion of decisions on controversial topics such as Timber Ridge parking should not be posted in minutes that are posted to website.
2. The garden roster should not be posted to the website since it contains personally identifiable information
3. The map and directions to garden should not be posted to the website (to prevent any additional unauthorized access)
4. It is technically possible, but not simple, to create access to the website only for posh squash members; it is also slightly easier to password protect (with a single password) some areas of the website
5. There was debate as to whether or not budget information should be posted

Recommendation:

1. Post SC minutes to the website for all topics discussed at SC meeting except potentially litigious items.
2. Do not post personal information such as names and phone numbers of general membership, and maps.
3. Do post the budget because this is a key function of the steering committee-- determining how member dues are spent; It is useful for members to see; TSRA posts such information. The information exists, whether or not it is posted and could be used for litigation.

Appendix 2: Profit and Loss as of 2-28-21

Posh Squash Profit and Loss as of 2-28-21 with Approved 2021 Budget

		2020 Actuals Jan - Feb	2021 Actuals Jan - Feb	Approved 2021 Budget	Variance under or (over) 2021 Budget	Notes
Ordinary Income/Expense						
	Income					
	Cookbooks/Calendars			0	0	
	Herbs de Posh			0	0	
	Honey Sales			0	0	
	Membership	12,640	17,280	16,640	(640)	Budget based on 104, now 108
	Silent/Wine Auction			2,000	2,000	Est. net earnings
	Total Income	12,640	17,280	18,640	1,360	
Expenses						
	JW Compost/Dirt			3,000	3,000	
	JW Cover Crop			140	140	
	JW Fertilizer	25	25	350	325	
	JW Seeds	631	813	825	12	
	RB, DP Non-seeds (Plants) (taters, garlic, etc)			100	100	
	Total Compost, cover crop, dirt, other	656	838	4,415	3,577	
	General Supplies	69	53	900	847	
	LL, BH Greenhouse Supplies	45	23	1,300	1,277	
	MN Lease	0	0	1,500	1,500	Rent due in April
	JN Maintenance, Supplies, Equipment					
	Equipment, repairs & gas	43	19	700	681	Lawn mower, weed whacker
	Hand tools, wheelbarrows			300	300	Ladder, wheelbarrow, etc.
	Wood, hardware, other			1,800	1,800	
	Total Maintenance, Supplies, Equipment	43	19	2,800	2,781	
	Services					
	BG Dump Fees			100	100	
	MN Bank Fee	0	0	0	0	
	MN AED	0	0	0	0	
	MN Office Supplies & PO Box	0	0	100	100	
	Total Services	0	0	200	200	
	LG Water	206	0	6,000	6,000	
	LG, BS, BVS Water hardware - irrigation					
	Backflow Test		65	65	0	2020 testing paid in 2021
	LG, BS, BVS Water hardware - irrigation - Other	59		1,350	1,350	
	Total Water hardware - irrigation	59	65	1,415	1,350	
	LG, GM Misc - work parties, photos, website	0	175	175	(0)	New website costs
	Total Expenses	1,077	1,173	18,705	17,532	
	Net Ordinary Income	11,563	16,107	(65)		
	Other Expense					
	Capital Projects					
	AVS, JN Hoop House	1,022	339	350	11	South end panel
	JW Raspberry Beds	0	0	0	0	
	JW Blueberry Beds	0	0	0	0	
	Total Capital Projects	1,022	339	350	11	
	Net Other Income	10,540	15,768	\$ (415)		
	Balance on hand as of 12/31/2019	9,518				
	Balance on hand as of 12/31/2020	28,289				Includes \$16,640 prepaid for 2021
	Total Balance as of 2/28/21	27,417				
	Projected Balance as of 12/31/2021	9,885				

Appendix 3: Planting Team Report

We have a beautiful and bountiful assortment of seedlings growing larger and stronger each week, many thanks to Linda for leading her GH team on this important part of the gardening process. It will be time to plant them soon, when they are large enough to survive in the beds.

For now, we focus our efforts on prepping beds, pre-prepping beds, and spending time & efforts on projects that will enhance our garden and improve our ability to grow things well. Mostly, that means eliminating the weeds (and making it harder for them to return in future years). Weeds compete for the water, light, and nutrients our plants need to grow well, and putting the pulled or mowed weeds to use as future compost in the longterm pile and beneath our paths will benefit us. (The magical process of turning weeds into crops. **PLEASE: TAKE ALL THORNY material to the haulaway pile, along with any IVY, PERIWINKLE (VINCA) an any woody sticks larger than 3/4" diameter; cut long sticks down to 12" lengths).**

The Planting Team is moving forward on several long-term projects this year, with the goal of improving crop health & soil fertility while lessening the abundance of weeds. Both have a major impact on the water requirements for our crops, and the need for use of power tools. Power tool reliability is a big challenge, and the less reliant we can become upon them the better. The mowers will always be needed to manage the cover crops and the larger access routes.

The primary projects this year will be :

1. **Lowering the level of pathways while raising the levels of bed surfaces:** pathways adjacent to non-raised beds will continue to be scraped down, and the topsoil & decomposed woodchips removed in the process will be used to augment the adjacent beds (as soil moisture permits).
 2. **Weedcloth will be installed** on the newly-lowered paths, and they will be covered with woodchips. **ONE LAYER OF WEEDCLOTH ONLY!!** This material is engineered to allow water and beneficial nutrients to filter into the soil, and doubling it up **DEFEATS** its ability to perform correctly. **It will NOT reach all the edges.** Follow the directions on the chore list for placement on each pathway. Remember, we use sleeves along the sides of all the non-raised beds and they **CANNOT** be driven thru the weedcloth. **USE ONE SINGLE 24" width on all pathways between beds**, even if it does not reach the edges. Most should be centered on the path to allow space for the sleeves to be pounded in when we plant the beds. **READ THE CHORE** and follow directions please.
 3. **Transforming a few of the oldest and damaged raised beds into mounded beds:** Larger plants perform very poorly in the raised beds, and raised beds also dry out quickly, requiring extra water. We are reducing the number of these beds to allow us space to grow our larger crops with better returns, (Broccoli, Kale, Tomatoes, Squash, etc) and keep up with the renovation of the raised beds we need to keep. As we reviewed the garden last year, we estimate we can replace a maximum of 2 raised beds per year (both in human toil and actual \$cost). They last about 15 years, **if** repaired in later years. Which means we can manage a maximum of 30 raised beds. This number gives us plenty of beds for the smaller crops that require more frequent & intensive labor, such as lettuce, strawberry, Zesty salad, radish, spinach, etc. The best location for sunlight is in the beds on the east of the path, between Beds 25 & 53. We will begin with beds 41,43 & 45 this year, as quickly as we can. We will be working with Jim & his Special Projects team to determine the easiest way to accomplish this, and then the teams will do most of the labor.
- **2 Beds will be rebuilt this year:** later in the season, when the rains have ended, the 2 beds to be replaced this year will be **Bed 9 & Bed 11**. The long-range plan calls for all the beds from 7-23 to remain as raised beds. As we rebuilt & refill them, we improve the soil they contain to grow healthier crops.

Items for your attention:

-the **Blue Flags** mark the beds that are **NOT to BE WEEDED.** Sadly, many seedlings were pulled/killed last year when weeders pulled them along with the weeds. We lost many of our shallots last year to this. Unfortunately, weeding was done on beds that were NOT on the chore list for weeding, and had no red flags. PLEASE follow the chorelist.

LEAVE these beds alone! Many are under the care of plant parents, and if they want help they will request it.

-The **Red Flags** are on the beds that **NEED WEEDING.** Please weed them regularly, and leave the flags in place. Weeds grow back and we move the flags weekly if needed.

-**Mowing the cover crop:** Mowing the cover crop is the process that turns it (and any weeds growing with it) into compost right in the beds. The mowing **MUST** be complete: every bit needs to be cut to soil level. **It needs to look like the haircut a Marine gets at the induction center: BUZZCUT.** If the growth at the edges needs to be pushed back into reach of the mower, use a rake, or cut with a handtool or a weed-wacker. Mowers need to make several passes over the bed to complete the chore correctly. **ALL the weed & clover debris MUST remain on the bed, in small pieces.** We CANNOT prep a bed that has not been completely mowed. Take the time & effort now to give our crops a good start. Better to mow one Bed correctly than 6 that have to be re-done.

A word about the chore reports:

I enjoy reading the comments and reflections the Dayleaders write, I think we all do. It is one way we can connect about our pleasures and challenges in the garden. However, this is also the only way the dayleaders later in the week can plan their workdays, so I have a request for future reports:

-Report the work done from the main chore list in one part of your report, and list by number or name given on the chore list in the column for "bed number" (such as 17.0, 17.1 etc; or the area it is in, if not in a bed, such as "west path", or "behind old Greenhouse"). State if it was completed or what part of it was completed. This is the only information the other dayleaders actually NEED to plan their team's work later in the week, and if it were all in a single paragraph, and listed by the number/name from the chore list, it would REALLY HELP.

-write whatever else you wish, remember the rest of the teams do not need to keep track of your work on the 'weekly chore list', so list in a different section if you wish to mention it. We do not need to know what beds were weeded, we do not keep track, and re-weeding is a reality of the spring season.

And most of all, remember we are all one team, and we are not competing for the longest list of work done. We are ALL trying for the best and most complete job done, and not keeping score.

**Jeanne
for the planting team**