

Goldenrod Community Garden

MINUTES

Board Meeting for 21 July 2025, 7:30 pm

Agenda:

1. Roll call: Sara C, Parminder D, Bryn L, Andrew M, Diane M, Barbara S
Regrets: Jane O, Kumari P, Tanya S
2. Adoption of the agenda: Adopted with the suggested changes
3. Review and approval of 23 June 2025 Minutes: Approved with the suggested changes
4. Reports from Committees:
 - a. President's report (Sara)
 - The Community Gardening Network survey was completed for both gardens
 - The build of the fruit bed was successful at the Bullman garden. Two of the four currant shrubs disappeared while waiting to be planted. The remaining ones will be planted soon; a suggestion was made to have a sign in the bed explaining the purpose of the shrubs – mention will be made of it in the next newsletter
 - The construction of a fruit bed at the Goldenrod garden was approved by the NCC. Will wait for lessons learned at the Bullman garden before building it. Its location was approved (in an area already being mowed) and it must be built according to the rules
 - The French compost posters have been forwarded to Just Food (to be shared with the NCC)
 - Reports of stolen produce continue at the Goldenrod garden. Gardeners suggested putting up more signs. Discussion: Andrew is ordering signs. One sign will be attached to the fence at Bullman near the water outlet while there will be a sign affixed to beds every other row at the Goldenrod garden. Andrew and Diane will prepare the signs for posting.
 - b. Treasurer's report (Tanya)
 - No report
 - c. Membership (Barbara)
 - One plot was released by a gardener at the Bullman garden and was reassigned
 - Many plots at Goldenrod were overtaken by weeds, they must not encroach on neighbouring plots. A list of those plots was prepared by volunteers on Volunteer Day
 - d. Properties – Build, Maintenance, Soil Building, Pollinator Gardens teams (Andrew)
(with support from: Sara for soil building, Bryn for pollinator gardens)
 - Volunteer Day was held on July 19. At Goldenrod there were six volunteers, including two Board members. One Board member was present at the Bullman garden, no volunteers showed up
 - Plot assessment was completed for Goldenrod, including structural integrity of beds. One bed was empty and eight beds were overtaken by weeds
 - Water – We received another delivery on July 16 and all tank coverings have been repaired
 - Bryn informed that she started a plant identification sheet for the pollinator gardens, that will include a photograph of each plant's bloom and its leaf. She purchased labels for their

physical identification in the garden. The goal is to prepare a document for the volunteers that would indicate the defined area for each grouping of plants, so they will know to remove the excess if the plants self-seeded in other areas

- Andrew would like volunteer(s) to be leads on garden initiatives such as the pollinator gardens, but to date no one has come forward from the membership. There is an opportunity to draw volunteers from outside the membership and Jeff Leiper has offered to use his newsletter for us to advertise externally. Barbara suggested reaching out to a professional organization and have an expert instruct us on a strategy. In the fall we could reach out to the organizations that offered us native plants for the gardens. For the time being Bryn and Diane will prepare resources and documentation this year to support volunteers for future years.

e. Bullman Garden Properties Liaison (Kumari)

- Diane informed that plant cuttings are now collected in a bucket rather than thrown in the compost bin, after she noticed three gardeners in a week take home items pulled out of the compost bin. This system will be tested out at Bullman first and could eventually be replicated at the Goldenrod garden

f. Communications (Parminder)

- The template for the next newsletter will be available soon, so Board members can start populating it with their articles
- An abundance of Japanese beetles was observed at the Goldenrod garden. An article on how to deal with it will appear in the next newsletter, together with a photograph of it

g. Events (Parminder / Barbara / Sara)

- Parminder will soon inform of the date of the next potluck and event, to be held in August

h. Garden Coordinators (Parminder / Diane)

- Photographs were uploaded to the Properties Committee's Maintenance folder to show Nanny Goat Hill's fix for boards that are pulling away
- Hidden Harvest is looking for trees to harvest. Their request will be transmitted to the membership in the next newsletter
- Diane received a donation of 17 pairs of working gloves and three safety vests on July 20. They will be kept in the Goldenrod shed

5. Carry forward agenda items

- a. Andrew shared the link to the English and French compost posters

6. New business

- Address the use of bird netting, as birds often get caught in them
 - A policy will be created effective 2026 to forbid the use of bird netting; alternatives were suggested such as using mesh as done at the Brewar Park Community Garden – see adjacent photograph
 - A heads-up will be given to the gardeners in the next newsletter, as well as next year before the season begins (do and don't with fences)
 - The bird netting might have worked if kept taunt enough to restrict access to the birds but it would likely relax with time, therefore not feasible



- End of season repair of beds at Goldenrod: heavy damage (11) and light damage (24). Initial conversations have happened. The next step is to decide on a plan and estimate costs
 - Diane will reach out to Nanny Goat Hill for assistance/directives on repairs
 - Andrew will figure out how to fix the damage, where to source the wood, estimate the cost and determine how many volunteers will be required to carry out the repairs
 - A date for the Annual General Meeting will need to be decided at the next Board of Directors meeting as a room must be booked soon at the Hintonburg Community Centre. A date for the closing of the garden must also be determined

7. To note from Action items (below)

- # 3 (Local Cafes): Andrew was hoping this could have happened at the Volunteer Day; he will book a meeting with the two volunteers who have stated an interest
 - Diane knows where to obtain ground coffee and will reach out to her contact person

8. Next meeting: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 at 7:30 pm

Update on past Action Items

Action	Assigned	Status
1. Parminder will ask members who self-identified as experienced gardeners in their registration form to give a workshop	27-Mar-25	In progress
2. Parminder will contact Brewar Park Community Garden to inquire about the fencing around the plots	11-Mar-25	In progress
3. Contact local cafés to obtain ground coffee for the worms: Diane has begun delivering coffee grounds to Goldenrod. Andrew will follow up with the other volunteer	23-Jun-25	In progress
4. Properties to repair beds that have structural issues	21-Jul-25	In progress

Upcoming business	Assigned	Date to revisit
1. Parminder will forward to the Board links to the bamboo dishware to be purchased for events as well as an estimated total price [Is this still required if we borrow dishware from Jen? - Diane]	09-Sep-24	Spring 2025
2. Properties: Repair garden plots. Perhaps reach out to Nanny Goat Hill Community Garden to see how they proceeded	23-Jun-25	Fall 2025
3. [to be assigned] Investigate mini greenhouses for the winter (from the survey). Could suggest row cover until December and for early spring. Will revisit this in the fall	11-Mar-25	Fall 2025
4. Parminder will update the FAQ sheet on the website	08-Oct-24	Fall 2025
5. Parminder: Develop guidelines for SOP about Facebook management	09-Sep-24	Fall 2025
6. Barbara: Prepare separate registration forms for each garden site so that a different Board member can be responsible for the registration process at the Bullman garden	23-Apr-25	Fall 2025

