

Gloucester Allotment Garden Association Annual General Meeting and Registration

Meeting Held: 24 March 2015
Louis Riel High School Cafeteria
1665 Bearbrook Road, Blackburn Hamlet
Ottawa, Ontario

Executive Members present: John ApSimon, Roger Eyvindson, Catherine Dixon, Diane Pilon, Harvey Nuelle, Barry Mayer, George Bushell, David Lamb, Margaret Don, Charlotte Gupta,, Bill Gloss, Brian Linseman, John Ross, Louis Doyle, Paul Mekis and Registrar Irene Harrison
Absent: Don Gray, Claude Brisebois

The meeting was called to order at 19:30 hrs.

Introductory Remarks: President John ApSimon welcomed the members and noted that this was the largest turnout of members to our Annual General Meeting in our association's history. (The Annual General Meeting is held every year in accordance with GAGA Articles of Incorporation, which requires that a general meeting be called to present and obtain approval for the annual budget, fee schedule and the appointment of members to the Executive.) Members were directed to the Agenda, available at the back of the hall, to follow the proceedings of this meeting. President ApSimon explained that early registration for this coming year would follow the completion of Association business at the end of the meeting.

Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting: Minutes of the 2014 AGM were distributed to the membership. It was moved by Louis Doyle seconded by Roger Eyvindson that the minutes be approved. Motion carried.

President ApSimon confirmed that the item of business arising out to the minutes, namely the Water Conservation Meeting for the Anderson gardeners took place on 27 May 2014. Water issues at the Anderson site were alleviated by the increase in rainfall that we experienced last summer. Our expenditure on water delivery to the Anderson site was \$1,909 for the season. Treasurer Eyvindson is not counting on nature's bounty however, and is projecting that the water delivery expense will be \$3,000 in 2015.

2014 Budget and Fees: Financial Statements for the year ended were available at the meeting. Treasurer Eyvindson reported that 50 new gardens were opened, tilled and tile drainage was installed. A small deficit of \$2,214.44 was incurred which reduced our accumulated surplus from \$15,062.66 to \$12,848.22. Treasurer Eyvindson projected that in 2015 we would have an increase in fees from the new gardens but also an increase in expenses for water and compost. He estimates that there will be a small deficit of \$1,000. Treasurer Eyvindson recommends that the Association maintain the level of fees at \$55 for a full (annual) plot and \$28 for a half (perennial) plot. Motion to accept the year-end financial statements and the 2015 fee schedule was moved by the Treasurer, Roger Eyvindson and seconded by Wayne Bissett. Motion Carried.

Modification of Registration Form and Rules: The Association offers a \$5 discount per registrant for attending the early registration meeting and submitting an application for membership at that time and a \$10 discount per registrant for volunteering for the Association in the preceding year. A motion to accept these two discounts offered by the Association in the form printed on the Application for Membership was moved by Paul Mekis and seconded by John Ross. Motion Carried.

Proposed changes to the Associations rules are as follows: changes to **Rule 2** makes the applicant(s) and any person working or visiting the applicant(s) plot(s) responsible for adherence to the rules of the Association, **Rule 6** requires the use of rubber washers on all hose connections and prohibits the use of hoses at the Anderson site, and **Rule 17** sanctions any Anderson member or any person connected to him or her for interfering with a locked gate or attaching a hose to the water system. A motion to approve these changes to the rules was moved by Sydney Swanson and seconded by Bill Hilts. Motion Carried.

Recognition of Community Support: President ApSimon noted that it takes a community to support a community garden and he thanked retired Councillor Rainer Bloess for his many years of support and welcomed our new Councillor Jodi Mitic who was unable to attend but did send a representative to the meeting. Also important to our Association are collaborations with Just Food who provide a water grant for the Anderson garden site, the Friends of Mer Bleue, who helped us to open the 50 new Orient plots and Lafarge Canada who provide assistance and materials to maintain the road system at the Orient garden site.

2015 Program Overview: President ApSimon reported that theft was up this year and the Anderson garden suffered a massive rampage! Rule changes approved are intended to address the security at Anderson road plots. It is up to all members to keep an eye on strangers and to confront them. Feel free to give the President or any member of the Executive a call and all contact information is on the website. Barry Mayer has been working hard to upgrade and update our website and we hope that all members will look to the website for all the current information they need. Opening 50 new plots at Orient is a substantial accomplishment and President ApSimon particularly wished to thank Past-President George Bushell for the engineering work which he contributed to this project. With over 400 plots our community garden is the largest in the city. Paul Mekis and George Bushell are working with Lafarge Canada to maintain the road into the Orient Garden site. Harvey Nuelle, our diligent Communications Officer, makes at least three attempts to reach each person in order to invite all members to the annual general meeting and take advantage of early registration. Bill Gloss made a plea for volunteers to help with spring staking. With 400 plots he needs about 21 people armed with a hammer and a tape measure! Bill has also formed a Weed Committee. 26 offenders have been identified. They will be given an opportunity this season to improve but Bill warns that members may have their plots taken away if they are on the Weed List again this season.

Nomination and Election of Officers: President ApSimon directed members to review the list of Proposed 2015 Board of Directors for the Association. There was one change to the list attached to

the 2014 AGM Minutes. It is with regret that we accept the resignation of John Ross and the President thanked him for his many years of service on the Board of Directors and manufacturing stakes! Subject to that change a motion to appoint the named members to the Board of Directors was moved by Bill Hilts and seconded by Fred Haggart. Motion Carried.

Other Business:

Community Organic Gardening - David Townson reminded members that COG is again offering a series of workshops on urban organic gardening at Ottawa City Hall.

Ruth Torok from the Gloucester Food Cupboard urged members to “Donate a Row.” She had seeds available to any interested members who wished to sign up. Ruth reported that last year the program was a great success and many pounds of fresh produce were donated to both the Gloucester and the Cumberland food banks.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn the meeting was moved by John ApSimon and seconded by Margaret Don. Motion Carried. The meeting was adjourned at 19:55.

Early registration began.