

GLOUCESTER ALLOTMENT GARDEN ASSOCIATION
Annual General Meeting - 2 March 2021
Meeting Location: Zoom

Executive Members present: John ApSimon, Irene Harrison, Linda Gloss, Catherine Dixon, Steve Vesely, Wayne Bissett, David Lamb, Eleonore Eldridge, Mark Eldridge, Paul Mekis, Doris Rondeau, André Labonté, Margaret Don, David Smith, Anne Ho.

In attendance: Jacqueline Shaw.

Retiring Directors: John ApSimon.

Regrets: Jennie Mae Thompson, Harvey Nuelle.

Call to Order - the meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by John ApSimon, President.

Opening Remarks - John ApSimon welcomed the executive standing for election and the 40 participants who registered to join the meeting. This is our second virtual AGM. It was a challenging year, gardening during a pandemic. Nevertheless, we had a successful season, and the geography of our gardens facilitates social distancing. John thanked the members for obeying the Covid-19 guidelines developed by Ottawa Public Health working in conjunction with Just Food. We continue to be supported by our sponsors, Friends of Mer Bleue, Just Food and Lafarge Canada. We owe a debt of thanks to Mark and Eleonore Eldridge who clarified our guiding principles, streamlined and updated the rules for Orient Park. Margaret Don revised the rules for Anderson. John emphasized that as a community garden, community is at the heart of our organization. He expressed his thanks to all the members of the Board and the volunteers and announced that this is his last meeting as President.

Invited Guests:

Laura Dudas, Deputy Mayor and Councillor of Innes Ward

Councillor Dudas was detained in a meeting at City Hall and was represented by her Executive Assistant, Chelsey Wynne. On behalf of Laura, Chelsey thanked John ApSimon and Irene Harrison for their leadership providing our community with access to local, sustainable, organic food and our Association for playing an important role in our community. John thanked Laura Dudas for her continuing support of our community garden.

David Townson, Canadian Organic Growers

David presented information about the Senior Organic Gardener's Virtual Garden Symposium which is presently underway and about COG's organic seed sale which is a fundraiser taking place at Pantry Plus. 500 packages of seeds are available for sale.

Erin OManique, Gloucester Emergency Food Cupboard

Erin shared the many projects that the GEFC is planning after it's strategic planning mission. These include participation at the Just Food Farm, a new community garden, a new location with a community kitchen and a free produce Farmer's Market on Friday mornings. Produce donations on Thursdays would be appreciated.

Approval of the 2019 and 2020 AGM Minutes

Motion: That the minutes of March 19, 2019, be approved as circulated.
Moved by Michelle Turner. Seconded by Steve Vesely. Carried

Motion: That the minutes of June 16, 2020, be approved as circulated.
Moved by Jean Laflamme. Seconded by Natalie Lacaze. Carried.

Presentation of 2020 Financial Statements and 2021 Budget.

Linda Gloss presented the highlights of the 2020 Financial Statement. A surplus of \$4,000 returns us to the same position as we were in 2018. The extra expenses incurred in 2019 for roadwork reduced our reserves. These are now restored. There was a drought in 2020 and a per plot water levy was instituted at Anderson to cover the expense of extra water deliveries. The Covid-19 pandemic caused important maintenance projects to be postponed. The 2021 Budget proposes a fee increase of \$5 on a half plot and \$10 on a full plot to cover increasing annual maintenance costs and larger long term maintenance projects such as dredging the ditches and tree removal.

Motion: That the 2021 GAGA Budget as presented by the Treasurer, including membership fees set at \$40 for a half plot and \$80 for a full plot, be adopted.
Moved by Dave Lamb. Seconded by Steve Vesely. Carried.

Presentation of Revised Rules for Orient Park

Mark and Eleonore Eldridge presented a new draft of the member rules for Orient Park. This draft simplifies and updates the rules into a more readable and understandable package. The full ruleset will be posted on our website and a synopsis will be included with each member's registration package.

Motion: That the revised Rules for Orient Park be adopted as presented.
Moved by Mark Eldridge. Seconded by Paul Mekis. Carried.

Presentation of Revised Rules for Anderson

Margaret Don presented a new draft of the member rules for Anderson. This draft parallels the revisions for Orient Park. Rule 5 has been changed. Members who use the limited water resources at a rate that is excessive or unsustainable may be transferred to Orient Park or have their plot privileges cancelled for that year. Rule 7 will allow members to buy water from the Association to fill a water barrel on their plot.

Motion: That the revised Rules for Anderson Garden be adopted as presented.
Moved by Irene Harrison. Seconded by Michelle Turner. Carried.

Director's Reports

Steve Vesely, Registrar

In person Registration will be cancelled again this year. Online renewals will begin after the Annual General Meeting, and paper registrations are available. Instructions on how to register are available on our website: gaga.ncf.ca

Mark and Eleonore Eldridge, Orient Staking Coordinators' Report:

Three points of note were tabled:

- volunteers will be required for staking and everyone will be notified when we are closer to the actual date
- anyone who can help us procure material for replacement stakes is invited to contact the coordinators
- members were given advance notice that all perennial plots will be measured, to establish current dimensions "for the record"

Fall Clean-up

John ApSimon reported that Fall Clean-up went very well in spite of the Covid restrictions. The contractor and Jennie Mae Thompson worked efficiently together to move the piles of compost to the main compost pile. John noted that gardeners must leave their garden waste at the designated pick-up spots and not just at the end of their plot, as in previous years.

Dave Lamb, Orient Maintenance

Tilling will take place in the second week of May and compost delivery will occur in the third week. Remember to leave 10 feet of space for the compost drop or leave a sign indicating "No Compost" on your plot. Options for the delivery of straw are being assessed.

Doris Rondeau and André Labonté, Water Maintenance

Doris and André received excellent maps and guides from Brian Linseman, the board member formerly in charge of Water Maintenance. Five or six leaks had to be fixed. Gardeners communicated quickly and effectively with Doris and André and Steve Vesely provided back up to them. Vehicles backed into 3 posts which had to be fixed. Doris asked gardeners to be mindful of the posts so that they do not break.

Election of Directors

Fifteen board members will continue in their same positions. John ApSimon is not standing for re-election, and two new Directors were presented:

- Irene Harrison as President, and
- Jacqueline Shaw as Vice President.

There being no other nominees, both were elected by acclamation in accordance with our by-laws:

s.18(2) If only one person is nominated for a position on the Board, that person shall be declared elected by acclamation.

Irene Harrison thanked John for his seven years of leadership as President and presented him with a small token of our appreciation.

Questions and Discussions on Reports

Members asked about the feasibility of having straw delivered this year. Dave Lamb will investigate this.

The question of a water surcharge and the management of water at Anderson was discussed.

The matter of abandoned plots was raised. Rule 7 states:

Members must control weed growth on their plot(s), keep the plot neat and tidy, and trim any long grass or weeds on the perimeter of their plot(s). Severe disease or pest infestation must be eliminated. The growth of illegal, regulated or noxious plants and the growth of plant(s) or crop(s) for sale are prohibited.

Steve Vesely reported that 4 plots were abandoned in 2020. 2 were re-allocated and 2 could not be rehabilitated.

The enforcement of rules was also discussed.

Adjournment

President John ApSimon adjourned the meeting at 8:52 p.m.

Attachments:

2020 Financial Statement

2021 Budget

Gloucester Allotment Garden Association
Financial Statement
for the year ended **31 December 2020**

REVENUE

	BUDGET	
	for 2020	2020
Registration Fees, net of refunds and discounts	20,100.00	20,505.00
Grant, Friends of Mer Bleue, for water at Anderson gardens	2,000.00	2,000.00
Donation		265.00
Water Levy at Anderson gardens		1,055.00
TOTAL	22,100.00	23,825.00

EXPENDITURES

Administration	2,000.00	1,672.67
Tilling	3,500.00	3,559.50
Grass Cutting	4,000.00	4,500.03
Water at Anderson	2,800.00	4,463.50
Equipment Rental incl. compost delivery and distribution	4,000.00	2,952.14
Fall clean-up and miscellaneous maintenance - Orient	1,600.00	1,109.02
Maintenance - Anderson	1,200.00	1,099.78
Covid-19 contingency	1,000.00	
TOTAL	\$ 20,100.00	\$ 19,356.64

NET INCOME

\$4,468.36

ASSETS
CASH - Bank Chequing account

Beginning year	11,838.43	
plus Net Income 2020	<u>4,468.36</u>	
TOTAL CASH ASSETS 31 December 2020		<u>\$ 16,306.79</u>

Gloucester Allotment Garden Association

Budget - 2021

INCOME

Registration Fees (*) net of refunds and discounts	\$ 23,500.00
Grant, Friends of Mer Bleue, for water at Anderson	2,000.00
TOTAL INCOME	25,500.00

EXPENSES

Administration	1,750.00
Tilling	3,750.00
Grass Cutting	5,000.00
Water at Anderson	4,100.00
Compost Delivery and Distribution	3,100.00
Fall Clean-up - Orient	1,175.00
Maintenance - Anderson	1,175.00
Maintenance - Orient	250.00
Long Term Maintenance Projects (**)	10,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>30,300.00</u>
DEFICIT	<u>-\$ 4,800.00</u>

(*) New fee structure: \$40 per half plot and \$80 per full plot

(**) The Board has approved the dredging of the inner ditches at Orient, the clearing of shrubs and trees along the ditch line, and a secondary project of screening the compost pile.

Before the projects are undertaken, with priority being given to the ditches, the Board will investigate sources of funding to defray costs.