

Town of Montgomery Community Garden Bylaws

Article I. Name: The organization is named the Town of Montgomery Community Garden located in Benedict Park, Route 17K, Montgomery, NY 12549, owned by the Town of Montgomery, hereafter called “The Garden”.

Article II. Mission: The Community Garden is a program of the Town of Montgomery’s Conservation Advisory Council (CAC). Administration of the Garden Project has been turned over to a Garden Committee comprised of garden members. The project is non-partisan and non-denominational and open to all.

The mission of the Community Garden Project is to allow citizens (individuals and families, young and old, either working alone or in groups) the opportunity to experience gardening in the great outdoors in a productive and congenial fashion. The Project’s intent is to foster self-reliance within a framework of community spirit and to allow people to grow their own vegetables and flowers with a sense of satisfaction and generosity. Efforts will be made to educate ourselves and our community about the benefits of organic gardening, best practices, sustainable gardening and good principles of agriculture.

The CAC believes this Project is an important hands-on link to our agricultural past. Not only does it connect us to the farming life of Edith and Teddy Benedict, whose generous largesse made the park a reality, but also helps modern man celebrate and honor the fact we are gardening within steps of Native American agricultural fields which date back 3,100 years and hunting camps which date to 7000 BC.

Article III. Executive Committee

Project Manager: position assigned by the CAC; liaison with the Town of Montgomery and the CAC.

Electing Officers

Officers will be nominated and elected at the first spring meeting and will take office at the next meeting. A majority of the members present are needed to elect. Officers will serve for a one year term. Officers may not serve more than 3 consecutive terms.

President

The president:

1. presides over all Garden Committee meetings
2. creates and distributes the agenda for the Garden Committee meetings
3. provides notice of Garden Committee meetings
4. has authority to sign legal documents with approval of the Garden Committee
5. has authority to sign checks with the treasurer, with the approval of the Garden Committee
6. is an ex-officio member of all committees

Vice President

The vice president acts as the president when the president is absent or unavailable and is also available to assist the president when asked. The vice president will maintain work requirement records of all gardeners and will report these to the executive committee.

Secretary

The secretary is responsible for maintaining all written records, minutes, and official correspondence of the Garden committee.

Treasurer

The treasurer is responsible for maintaining all financial records and will produce them for review or audit by the Garden Committee, upon their request. The treasurer has the authority to sign checks with approval from the Garden Committee. The treasurer will provide a report at each meeting.

Sergeants-at-Arms (2)

The responsibility of the sergeants-at-arms is to enforce the rules of the garden.

Amendments

Members wishing to change by-laws must submit the proposed change, in writing, to the president or vice president one week prior to a monthly meeting where they are read and discussed. Proposed change(s) must then be posted on the website and at the garden for one month, including the date for the meeting at which it will be voted on, and then approved by the majority of the members of the Garden Committee present at that meeting.

Gardener Responsibilities

Each gardener shall be acquainted with and abide by the rules and regulations of the garden. Each gardener may reach out to those gardeners who are neglecting their responsibilities and advise the sergeant-at-arms of unresolved concerns.

Cost

The rental income of each plot will be determined by the Town of Montgomery and used for general operating costs of the garden.

Voting

All decisions made by the Garden Committee shall require a majority vote by those present. Each plot is limited to one vote. In no case will a member have more than one vote.

Committees

Standing committees may be established. Standing committees do not make final decisions; they bring suggestions and recommendations to the Garden Committee meetings for consensus.

Meetings

The annual organizational meeting will be held on the first or second Friday of March. Garden Committee meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of each month from April to November. Before any meeting, an agenda will be placed on the website and posted at the garden. Members should submit agenda additions to the president prior to the meeting. All decisions will be made by consensus.