

**COVERT TOWNSHIP
COMMUNITY GARDEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Friday, March 28, 2025 at 4:00 PM
Covert Branch Library, 33805 M-140, Covert, MI 49043**

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Chair R. Job called the meeting to order at 4:03pm.

Present: D.Cook, R. Job, M. Dominguez, P. Jackson

Absent: None

Also Present: Renee Hostetler, Van Buren ISD Project SHINE Nutrition Educator

Motion by D. Cook, supported by R. Job, to approve the agenda. CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Renee Hostetler from Van Buren ISD Project SHINE introduced their program and efforts to reach out to the community beyond schools to educate kids and their families on healthy eating habits and growing fruits and vegetables.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion by R. Job, supported by P. Jackson, to approve the February 25, 2025 Minutes as presented. CARRIED

Volunteer Day

Volunteer Days were set for 4/10 at 2pm and 4/18 at 2pm. Day One will focus on installations, including more soil, cattle panels, strawberry bed, straw, new sign and brassica netting. We also want to move the tomato cage and pea screen. Day Two will focus on cold crop plantings and direct sowing. A third volunteer day for plants and seed sowing will be in late May and determined at our next meeting in April. A sign with a QR code that links to a volunteer application was suggested.

Garden Planning

A map of plants for each raised bed was created, utilizing crop rotation and companion planting to reduce pests and improve soil nutrients. Growing brassica has been a struggle, so we will use several methods to increase chance of success. Sprouting garlic bulbs will be separated and lettuces sown between them. Fragrant edible flowers will help with pest control, and beans will be planted where the tomatoes were to add more nitrogen to the soil. We also chose plants based on

popularity, utility and space available. Cattle panels will help increase our space for cucumbers, squashes and pole beans.

Signage Ideas

Due to time constraints, this subject was tabled. It was agreed that we have large signage with pictures and identification for both weeds and intentional plantings. Corrugated plastic was suggested.

Motion by R. Job to adjourn at 4:57pm.

Respectfully submitted by D. Cook.

Next Meeting Friday, April 25, 2025 at 4:00 PM