

COVERT TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY GARDEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DRAFT Minutes

Friday, July 27, 2025 at 4:00 PM

Covert Branch Library, 33805 M-140, Covert, MI 49043

The meeting was called to order by Chair R. Job at 4:07 PM.

Members Present: Rebecca Job, Barbara Bainbridge, Patrice Jackson, Michelina Dominguez

Members Absent: Daywi Cook

Motion by M. Dominguez, supported by P. Jackson, to approve the agenda.

Yes: 4, No: 0, Absent: 1 - CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT: Renee Hostetler of Van Buren ISD regrettfully informed the committee that funding for her position with Project SHINE was cut from SNAP education via the Big Beautiful Bill in US Congress, so she will not be able to be as involved in the garden, and she can't join the board. She will maintain contact with the Covert Schools teacher who was interested in helping out with the garden for us, and can provide advice where useful.

NEW BUSINESS

Discuss Potential Meeting Time Change Member D. Cook suggested a time change for the committee's monthly meeting of either Wednesday or Thursday at 1 pm. Last Thursday of the month at 1pm was agreed upon by all present members, pending availability at the Covert Library venue. R. Job will contact Milan at the library to confirm availability.

Garden Status Report B. Bainbridge starting some cold crop seedlings, will provide excess to garden – brussels sprouts, cabbage, etc. R. Job made note to ask D. Cook about talking to public works to weed whack garden pathways, which are overgrown despite attempts to discourage weeds with straw. R. Job noted that garden has mostly gone to seed, but tomatoes, green beans, and tomatillos are all still doing very well. Tomatoes need trellising.

Discuss July Weeding Event R. Job and B. Bainbridge were only attendees; R. Job removed weeds and majority of bolted vegetables from beds, while B. Bainbridge worked on weeding pathways. Members agreed that a designated area

for compost needs to be decided upon – R. Job will speak to D. Cook about what public works will allow in the area. Plastic over strawberry planting area needs to be removed, as it is breaking down.

Signage Ideas Mockup of signage and list of current plants/common weeds given to P. Jackson as previously agreed upon, to create preliminary signage for garden.

Healthy Start Picnic Update R. Job went over the plans for the garden club's table at the Covert Library's Healthy Start Picnic on Friday July 30 at 5pm. Plans include gardening flyers, seed library, volunteer sign-up forms, and a free food option – similar to table at Memorial Day parade. R. Job checking with D. Cook on what to ultimately offer for food; cottage food laws will be checked to see what we are allowed to offer. Renee Hostetler will not be able to help since Project SHINE will have its own table at the event; D. Cook will help R. Job to man the table.

P. Jackson mentions Back to School event, asks if garden club should have a table there. She will email R. Job with date info.

OTHER BUSINESS

M. Dominguez's end of term is approaching. She says she can keep coming if necessary, but asks if she is still needed. R. Job will talk to D. Cook about this issue.

Motion to adjourn by R. Job, supported by P. Jackson, at 4:42 PM.

Yes: 4, No: 0, Absent: 1 - CARRIED

Respectfully submitted by R. Job, Chair

Next Meeting Thursday, August 28, 2025 at 1:00 PM (TENTATIVE, PENDING APPROVAL WITH LIBRARY)