

STAFFORD HAMLET
COMMUNITY MEETING

Minutes

March 14, 2023

Danielle Weber called the March 14th Community meeting of the Stafford Hamlet to order at approximately 7:00 pm on Zoom.

Attendance:

- ❖ Board Members Present: Richard Fiala, Bill Long, Patty Mamula, Bill Markt, Cathy Meyers, Andy Munson, Len Schaber, Kelsey Vu, Danielle Weber
- ❖ Excused: Erica England
- ❖ Absent:
- ❖ Staff Present:

Danielle Weber welcomed attendees to the meeting and introduced Cathy Meyers as the night's guest speaker.

Guest Speaker: Cathy Meyers, Master Gardener - Getting Your Garden Ready:

Cathy Meyers began by saying she has been a Master Gardener since 2017. She said they are a great resource. She said they have a March garden calendar that can be helpful for knowing what to do when and what to grow when. She said there is good information on the websites for OSU Extension Service, which is extension.oregonstate.edu and the Clackamas Master Gardeners page, <https://clackamascountymastergardeners.org/>.

Cathy Meyers suggested doing proactive pest management now instead of active management, using products such as roundup. This includes maintenance and clean up. Another task is fertilizing plants if appropriate, and this includes berries and some shrubs. Cathy suggested starting edibles such as lettuce, onions, sprouts. She said this is a good time to divide hostas. This is a good time to prepare vegetable beds if the soil is dry enough. Cathy suggested testing soil to see what nutrients need to be added. Additional projects include planning what you would like to do in the garden this year and starting some seeds indoors.

Patty Mamula asked when can sunflowers be planted, and Cathy Meyers suggested planting them when the soil temperature reaches 50 degrees. Richard Fiala advised against starting sunflower seeds indoors. He suggested planting them in the last part of April.

Danielle Weber asked what is an insectary plant? Cathy Meyers said it would be on the page she listed.

Cathy Meyers asked Richard Fiala if he had any other advise to share. Richard Fiala said plant onions now, trim berries now, start cold crops, and start a seed bed soon. He said that little

gardens are easier to work with. He said that early radishes will be a lot sweeter. He suggested starting potatoes in the next few weeks.

Bill Markt asked why the advise is to not plant right now. He asked if it is due to temperature or soil wetness? Cathy Meyers said both. She said things can rot if planted now. She said that every year is different. She added that raised beds will change when different things can be planted.

Danielle Weber asked what should soil feel like when it is ready? Cathy Meyers said it should be crumbly and also suggested watching a video to see what that looks like.

Patty Mamula asked Richard Fiala about the protocol for pruning raspberries. Richard Fiala said that the new growth is where the berries will be. He suggested trimming out the old canes, ideally as low as you can go. He said if you have a row of raspberries, then you should space them apart with 18” as minimum. He advised trimming raspberries to height, and said that it should be a little lower than picking height. He suggested tying up plants now.

Andy Munson asked if older seed potatoes can still be used, and Cathy Meyers and Richard Fiala suggested using new seed potatoes.

Family Fest Progress:

Danielle Weber and Kelsey Vu are the Co-Chairs of the Family Fest for 2023. It will be on September 9th from 10 am to 4 pm. They have a few new sponsors as well as some returning sponsors. They still need volunteers. They are working on food vendors, and hope to have Kelly’s Tacos back. There will be animals and kids games again. The next meeting is on April 12 at 5:30 pm. If anyone has vendor ideas they can email Kelsey or Danielle.

Introduce new County Senior Community Engagement Specialist Holly Krejci:

Holly Krejci, the new County staff person assigned to Hamlet and Villages, came to introduce herself. She has twenty years of experience as a community organizer. She also has a background in land use. She has been in the Clackamas area for ten years. She said she is there to provide support. She said that she could help promote the Family Fest.

Patty Mamula asked what is the best way to contact her, and Holly said she prefers email.

Adjournment: Danielle Weber adjourned the meeting at 7:46 pm.