

Boscawen Agricultural Commission

Garden Committee

Meeting of **February 19, 2015** @ 5:30 to 6:40 PM

Town Office 4th Floor Meeting Room

Written by: Ann LaCroix

Attendees: Ann LaCroix, Louise Jacob, Angela Swyers, Sarah Chappelow, Tom Danko, and John Keegan

Minutes Approved: January 22nd minutes approved.

- Agenda:**
1. Go over handouts
 2. Discuss Boscawen Community Garden sign and herb garden sign
 3. Kiosk update
 4. Garden irrigation system: tabled for next meeting due to time factor

Community Garden Informational Packet: Each year all gardeners are sent an informational packet which include a Soil Amendment Fact sheet, information on irrigation, how to manage mosquitos and ticks, IPM pest control techniques, soil pH information, and information concerning waste disposal at the garden to set the tone for the coming season. T. Danko volunteered to supply a 2015 soil test, including pH reading, to be completed in March, and weather permitting. Additional information will be added concerning the new herb garden. The letter to individual abutters will also include information about the herb garden as part of the effort to maximize information to the surrounding community. E. Clow will send out notices inviting gardeners and the public to a series of Monday night herb garden talks on how to grow, cultivate, and cook with kitchen herbs so that folks are educated to properly harvest herbs during the season. Past attendance to Monday night garden talks have been 60% gardeners and 40% other attendees. Concerning the mosquito/ tick information sheet, J. Keegan will ask E. Clow will update the sheet with any new information.

Action Plan: T. Danko volunteered to supply a 2015 soil test, including pH reading to be completed in March, weather permitting.

Action Plan: J. Keegan will ask Elaine Clow will update the mosquito/tick information sheet with any new information.

Action Plan: E. Clow will send out notices inviting gardeners and the public to a series of Monday night herb garden talks.

Herb garden: plants were reviewed as to how many of each plant would be growing in the raised bed. (See December 22nd list of herbs to be grown. Also refer to Cooperative Extension handout **Kitchen Garden Herbs** list and a possible diagram of herb placement). A. LaCroix said

that 1 perennial plant such as sage will increase two-fold during the summer, allowing for multiple cuttings. However, annual seed plants such as basil or cilantro are cut down to ¼ of the plant when harvested to get an adequate “bunch” to cook with. Hence, multiple plants will be planted throughout the season. Cilantro will “bolt” or flower when hot weather sets in in July, so reseeding or new plants are anticipated. The number of plants maintained will be based on supply-demand as more folks will know how to utilize the herbs with their garden vegetables. L. Jacob brought in a good herb cookbook called Pickety Place as a source of kitchen herb recipes. Pickety Place farm is located in Mason, NH.

Signs: Barbara Lassonde spoke at the Agricultural Commission meeting on February 12th. She owns a public relations firm in Warner. She commented that these signs are the best way to advertise the garden and its activities. A. Swyers, who designed both signs, provided color prints of both the community and herb garden signs which had been revised based on prior input. She wanted confirmation that the prints reflected the Committees’ final decisions. The committee confirmed the vote in favor of keeping the beige background color with green edging for the **Boscawen Community Garden sign**. However, the outside ring of the Boscawen town logo was changed to white to make the letters stand out and to be consistent with the logo as it appears on town vehicles. Both the **Boscawen Community Garden sign** and the **Community Herb Garden sign** will be fabricated by NH State Prison Industries. A. Swyers will secure a quote for the sign materials from NH State Prison Industries for their work prior to fabrication. The materials used for the **Boscawen Community Garden sign** will be metal but the **Community Herb Garden sign** will most likely be a composite material and size will be around 2 or 2 ½ feet wide by 18” deep. (Overall size width and depth to be determined by A. Swyers). A. Swyers will design an herb leaf and place same on either side of the lettering as decoration. There will be a small clear mailbox attached to one of the herb garden sign posts to drop in copies of herb recipes for folks to share. The **Boscawen Community Garden sign** will have five hang downs below the larger garden sign. The hang downs will have hooks to attach and remove as needed and be slightly less wide than the overall sign. The **five hang downs are:** Plots Available Now, Monday Night Garden Lecture, Monday Night Herb Garden Training, Draft Horse Event This Saturday, and Closed for the Season-Thank You!

Action Plan: A. Swyers will consult with A. Hardy to determine the optimum size of the Boscawen Community Garden sign before contacting Prison Industries.

Action Plan: A. Swyers will add the herb leafs on either side of the lettering in the Boscawen Community Herb Garden sign for decoration.

Action Plan: A. Swyers will secure a quote for the sign materials from NH State Prison Industries for their work prior to fabrication.

Garden kiosk will be constructed by Merrimack Middle School teacher Peter Satterfield and his shop students. T. Danko recommended to the committee that it would be best to have a quote for the materials such as costs for 4 x4 posts, framing for sign case, and a metal slant roof. His recommendation was accepted and A. Swyers will ask for the quote ASAP. Kiosk dimensions will be a 5 foot wide x 4 foot tall. The panel facing the garden will be ½ Plexiglas and ½ pegboard to post

notices while others more permanent can remain protected. Peter will do most of the cutting and have his shop students construct the structure. A. Swyers will email J. Keegan the range of prices so the Boscawen Ag Commission can approve the funding.

Action Plan: A. Swyers will email J. Keegan the quote so the Boscawen Ag Commission can approve the funding.

Irrigation strategies for water pipe placement was tabled as the meeting was cut short due to another meeting at 7 PM. J. Keegan will check with some local landscapers in the meantime to get suggestions for the irrigation system layout so water is directed onto the plots and not interfering with the walk ways. Direction of lines will be North->South this year.

Action Plan: J. Keegan will check with some local landscapers in the meantime to get suggestions for the irrigation system layout.

Future topics: Ideas for "The Latest Dirt" newsletter needed for Sara Chappelow.

Irrigation placement

Finalize herb garden description for Informational Fact Sheet and set tentative dates for Monday night herb training sessions.

Next meeting: March 5th @5:30 to 7:00pm same location