

Boscawen Agricultural Commission

Garden Committee

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

Town Office 4th Floor Meeting Room

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

Due to E. Clow's schedule discussion of the gardener application packet, the herb garden description and the irrigation update were moved to the start of the meeting for consideration.

Application Packet: E. Clow reviewed the three documents and made several grammatical and clarifying changes to the *FAQ Sheet* and the *Rules and Guidelines*. In addition, she pointed out the changes needed in the newsletter name and the irrigation sections. These changes were accepted.

Herb Garden Description: A. LaCroix drafted this item for the newsletter (See Attached). The purposes are: to explain how the garden will be built; to explain what the herb garden is; and to build enthusiasm among community gardeners to cook with herbs and, eventually, to grow them. The attached document contains several minor edits of A. LaCroix' original which were accepted by the committee. In addition to the newsletter, E. Clow will send this to *The Boscawen Newsvine* for publication.

Action Plan: J. Keegan will forward the Herb Garden description to S. Chappelow and E. Clow for publication.

Irrigation Update: J. Keegan presented an alternative to the 'flat tapes' used to date in the garden for several reasons:

- Easier to install and retrieve,
- To give individual gardeners more control of their water use,
- To stop watering the weed crop and,
- To conserve water.

The new plan is to install lateral ¾" black plastic lines using a "T" from the main line thru the middle of the four plot garden clusters. In the center of each cluster a sillcock (spigot) will be installed capable of servicing 2 users at the same time. The cost for each installation is slightly over \$15 resulting in a cost per plot of \$4 or so. After reviewing the sketches of the layout and detail for the spigot the committee agreed to pursue this plan.

At this point the committee returned to the published agenda.

Minutes Approved: March 5th minutes approved with the addition of information on Louise Jacob's attendance at the International Herb Symposium.

Newsletter: S. Chappelow suggested the name ‘Garden Green Thumb Gazette’. After some discussion the name was shortened to *Green Thumb Gazette*. A. Swyers will send S. Chappelow a file with a green thumb which can be included in the masthead.

Action Plan: A. Swyers will send S. Chappelow a file with a green thumb which can be included in the masthead.

S. Chappelow then distributed a draft newsletter schedule along with possible topics for each edition. The newsletter will generally be two double column pages with four major sections: a short, general item from J. Keegan; information about the ‘First Monday’ education program; information about current gardening topics; and a recipe or article related to the herb garden. Other related information may be included as space permits.

Initially, distribution via email will be to the 2014 gardeners, Garden Committee members and Agricultural Commission members and alternates. Copies will also be available in the town office and library. As soon as the new town website is operational, the *Green Thumb Gazette* will be posted and available to everyone thru ‘Constant Contact’ or a similar web-based service. S. Chappelow will send an e-copy to the identified town employee for posting. Meanwhile, should S. Chappelow need tech support Kellee Jo Easler will be the person to contact, with Alan Hardy as the back-up.

The deadline for submission of material, the publication schedule and content, as of this meeting, are as follows:

Content in this type was discussed and will be included in a newsletter

Content in this type was proposed by Sarah and is yet to be vetted

Deadline	Publication Date	Content
March 23	March 31	Commission perspective
		First Monday info
		Starting Plants
		Herb Garden
		Starting Seedlings

Deadline	Publication Date	Content
April 12	April 14	Commission perspective
		First Monday info
		Herb Recipes (?)
		<i>Plants & flowers around border of plots to deter pests</i>

Deadline	Publication Date	Content
May 3	May 5	Commission perspective
		Garden opens
		Improving soil at your site

		First Monday info
		<i>Garden opens: Reminders about garden etiquette</i>
		<i>Info about spring crops</i>

Deadline	Publication Date	Content
TBD Early June	TBD	Commission perspective
		First Monday info
		IPM Part I
		Herb Tea Recipes
		<i>Weeding</i>

Deadline	Publication Date	Content
TBD Early July	TBD	Commission perspective
		IPM Part II
		First Monday info
		Herb Garden
		<i>First Harvests</i>
		<i>Pest Management</i>

Deadline	Publication Date	Content
TBD Early August	TBD	Commission perspective
		First Monday info
		Herb Garden
		<i>Preserving vegetables/canning</i>
		<i>Drying seeds</i>

Deadline	Publication Date	Content
TBD Early September	TBD	Commission perspective
		First Monday info
		Herb Garden
		<i>Wrap-up/reminders about closing down plots</i>
		<i>Storing winter vegetables</i>

As the members worked to complete the content for each month specific individuals committed to providing material, on deadline, for S. Chappelow to assemble. J. Keegan noted that the newsletter is a publication of the Garden Committee, which is part of the Boscawen Agricultural Commission and, as such, each of us has a stake in its success.

Action Plan: J. Keegan will provide the 'Commission Perspective' content and the 'Herb Garden' information and several recipes while A. LaCroix will provide the "Starting Crops' information. E. Clow will provide the 'First Monday' material.

Follow-up on outstanding action items:

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

Action Plan: E. Clow will send out notices inviting gardeners and the public to a series of Monday night herb garden talks. **E. Clow will need the 2015 gardener mailing list. J. Keegan will follow-up on this item.**

Signs and Kiosk: J. Keegan checked the size of the signs at the end of Corn Hill Road. They are both approximately four feet wide and three feet tall. J. Keegan also spoke with Alan Hardy about the status of the signs and payment. The funds are available and a sign at least the size of those at the end of Corn Hill Road is sufficient, although a larger sign would be fine. If A. Swyers would like his assistance in dealing with prison industries he is available. A. Swyers will contact the prison and proceed with the order for both the road and herb garden signs.

There has been no quote from Peter Satterfield for the kiosk.

Action Plan: A. Swyers will contact the prison and proceed with the order for both the road and herb garden signs.

Action Plan: J. Keegan will contact P. Satterfield via email to request the quote ASAP.

Next meeting: April 2nd @5:30 to 6:30pm same location