

Town of Boscawen, NH

Boscawen Community Garden

Boscawen Municipal Complex

MEETING MINUTES- Final

Monday, March 13, 2017 at 6:30 PM

Members present: Jeff Abbe, Elaine Clow, Ann LaCroix (secretary)

February 14 minutes were approved.

Harrowing and applications of summer buckwheat and fall rye:

Josh Marshall or Tom Giovagnoli from the Ag Commission volunteered their time to harrow the soil with tractors. John Keegan offered his time to help with new pipe layout. A weekend in June will need to be set aside to harrow the garden perimeter as well as the strip of unplowed ground followed by spreading 100 lbs summer buckwheat.

September 15 date will be set aside to cut the buckwheat, then rototill it into the soil at a depth of 2". Then winter rye will be spread in the same area.

Progress of garden application, rules and guidelines, and consent and release of photo/audio/video:

Primex Insurance made significant changes to the forms. All forms were discussed. The Agricultural Commission meeting will be Thursday, March 16. The revised date for garden applications will be Tuesday, March 21, 2017. Katie Phelps will take charge of receiving applications and monies for plots. Jeff Abbe will try to meet with Katie on plot assignments and in generating an email to past gardeners if they intend to come back this year, if they want the same plot, or wish a new plot and if so, how many plots. Also, gardeners must be made aware that the "community" garden cannot work without volunteers to help with general maintenance tasks and therefore are strongly encouraged to commit a few hours of their time to help out at the garden. Emails will be sent to get volunteers.

Update on soil tests: In the summer of 2016 Amy Papineau performed a soil test of one plot (during the extreme drought) for pH and conductivity. The pH test results were 7.6, 1.0 above the standard pH for healthy garden soils. The ideal pH should be 6.0-6.8 pH. The conductivity test came in at 1.7; very high. The norm is 0.8. High conductivity may be due to the gardener over fertilizing their plot using a 20-0-20 fertilizer given to each gardener from last year. Unfinished compost from 2015, mixed in with unfinished shavings can tie up nitrogen as it breaks down. The high pH paired with high conductivity could have led to nutrient deficiencies in plants such as stunted growth or dying off. Recommendations from Amy Papineau were to obtain a new soil test from several plots this year. Since the pH is so high, no lime will need to be applied this year. Gardeners are encouraged to use an organic fertilizer with low or no phosphorus and a 4% potassium. Fall of 2015 phosphorus levels were very high and potassium levels very low.

Ann will collect several samples from plots this spring as **soon** as the soil thaws to send into UNH for a soil update. Gardeners will be sent emails with recommendations for the correct fertilizers to use in their plots.

Garden guide: Ann will begin working on a simple garden guide for new gardeners as to what seeds to plant and which to start ahead, how to plant seeds, fertilizing their plots, and proper watering and mulching techniques.

Herb Garden: The proposed date for the herb garden talk will be Monday, June 6 6:30-7PM. Speakers will be Ann LaCroix and Louise Jacob.

Signage: Ann gave Jeff both foldable 4'x4' panel signs. Jeff will seal the wood and purchase chain or wood to join panels and purchase 6ftx3ft plastic corrugated sign stock (\$14) for 2 signs saying "plots available now- 753-9188 ext. 321" (for Katie Phelps). One sign will be placed at the corner of Corn Hill Road and Woodbury Lane and the other one at the garden entrance as soon as possible to alert folks to sign up for plots. The 4 x4 garden sign with logo awaits spring to be hung at the kiosk.

Garden Shed: Mike Valinski, MHS shop teacher, is working on a material list and shed design with students as part of their shop curriculum. Jeff sent a letter to National Lumber asking for a deep discount and/or donation for \$1,500 to cover shed materials.