

NHS GREENHOUSE STEWARDS MEETING

August 23, 2016

10:00am-Conference room

In attendance: Lisa Cote, Wendy Crowley, Lauren deConstant, Brenda Eaves,
Bob Hamilton, Carolyn Kelly, Mark McFarlin, Margaret Schoenberger,
Anna Spaulding, Brenda Tharp

There were no July minutes available at this meeting.

Joel Hurvitz has agreed to accept the position of Greenhouse Manager.

Greenhouse maintenance and supply:

There is still a need for greenhouse shelving. Anna suggested purchasing shelving through Home Depot-Mark suggested that BJs or a restaurant wholesale supply might be a less expensive option.

Brenda and Mark will be meeting with Joel to order supplies for the upcoming school year.

Bob presented an overview of the physical needs of the greenhouse for the new manager (Joel).

Joel would be in charge of making sure the beds are clean, paths mowed, and the greenhouse organized. He is also expected to attend the NHS Greenhouse Stewards meetings.

Bob proposed a tentative stipend of \$1250/spring, \$1250/summer, \$500/fall for a total of \$3,000.

Bob also suggested the need for setting an annual budget for supplies.

For example: seedlings and vermiculite(\$1,000), tools, pots and hardware(\$1,000). He suggested that \$5,000 would be adequate and would amount to \$12 per student annually.

There is a need for a rugged garden cart, a broad fork and a watering system that is more permanent and on a timer. Presently, there is low water pressure which results in the sprinkler having to be moved physically. Bob would like to purchase a new timer and he has proposed that increasing the size of the water line might increase the water pressure.

It was also decided that there is a need for more lights. Three lights have already been purchased and three more are needed. Each light may cost as much as \$900 for a total of \$2700. Brad will be donating the money to purchase these with the proceeds from the flower sale.

Other:

As a group, it was decided that we would like to see the greenhouse be used for more than the square foot gardening program. We are also hopeful for a continuation of the Star Island planting project and the Petunia sale.

Lauren suggested that since the 7th grade students plant the gardens at Little Boars Head, they could return as 8th graders to visit, draw, write poetry, etc. Lauren will reach out to Brenda Tharp regarding this idea.

There was a surplus of plantings and seedlings at the end of this past school year. Margaret suggested the extra seedlings be sold at the plant sale. Carolyn suggested an email be sent out to home gardeners regarding their availability.

Joel will be asked about the possibility of an after school or summer garden club, where vegetables/flowers are grown and sold at a mini farmers market on Friday afternoons. Perhaps this could be done in conjunction with the Recreation department.

There was a discussion regarding harvesting the school garden. After a certain date, an email could be sent asking families to come and pick the remaining flowers/produce, or donate to a food pantry. Anna suggested a sign for the garden with expectations for harvesting- possibly with a QR code to the website where there are recipes that correlate with what is being grown.

Bob suggested a "start your own seedling day" for the community to be held one day this upcoming Spring.

Lauren would like to connect with Paula for the upcoming school year. Brenda offered to include her when sending out a summary of plantings. It was suggested that Joel could contact Paula and see if she has anything specific she would like to see planted. The sixth grade will start a bed for the kitchen use and Wendy will speak with Lisa Noonis and ask for her input.

The NHS Greenhouse Stewards will reconvene on September 13, 2016 at 3:00.