

NHS Greenhouse Stewards  
April 12, 2016  
3:00 pm- office conference room

In attendance: Brenda Eaves, Rachel Robie, Mark McFarlin, Margaret Schoenberger,  
Tracy Griffenhagen, Victoria Kilroy, Bob Hamilton, Carolyn Kelly.

**March minutes were read and approved.**

**Greenhouse Maintenance and Supplies:**

Brenda stated that the greenhouse is in need of 4" plastic pots- suggesting that these be kept on hand since there are upcoming projects that will require them. There is a question as to the availability of funds to purchase the pots, and it is unclear whether money is available. Brenda will check with Maribeth to inquire whether this purchase could be considered a consumable supply.

It was decided that a case of pots would be an appropriate amount and that it could be purchased from Griffin Greenhouse Supplies since they offer wholesale pricing to NHS.

There was discussion regarding under what category funding for greenhouse supplies should fall. It is unclear whether greenhouse supplies should be considered science supplies or consumable supplies. Tracey stated that it was fair and made sense to ask for the funds for greenhouse supplies as a consumable expense.

Brenda has records of monies spent for greenhouse supplies and has a good idea of what will be needed going forward. Victoria suggested putting together a " budget notebook" which can be referred to from year to year. Rachel will follow up with Lauren deConstant as to the whereabouts of the notebook that is usually out in the greenhouse.

Mark & Brad have spent a great deal of time working on the control system for the greenhouse with the hope of seeing more consistency in regards to the temperature. Mark inquired as to whether there is a warranty on the system and/or if an electrician should be contacted. He brought up the need for a greenhouse manager who can be called in case of emergency and is available after school hours, during school vacations, etc.

Victoria suggested that we have maintenance and inspection of systems done by a professional on a yearly basis. Rachel will contact Rimol for a referral of a local company that is available to service the greenhouse.

It was decided that cleaning and moving rain barrels will be part of fall maintenance for the greenhouse.

**Square Foot Gardening update:**

All participating grades have started seeds and now have viable seedlings growing in the greenhouse. It was noted that this has been a learning process and no one is discouraged. Through trial and error, it has been decided that starting seedlings in solo cups is preferable to paper cups.

Mark's students have planted tomatoes and peppers, and the 8th grade students' tomatoes are doing very well.

Bob started tomato seeds on February 12, 2016. He has grafted 25 plants at home- 3 have been moved to the greenhouse as an experiment to see when seeds should be planted in order to have tomatoes for graduation. Alison has been involved in the grafting.

Victoria suggested carrying over the square foot journal and incorporating it with the tomato journal so students can look back over their growing experience throughout their years at NHS. Everyone was in agreement that it is a great idea and could possibly be started next year.

#### **Little Boars Head Garden Club update:**

Margaret and three other members of the LBHGC visited NHS and planted canna lily rhizomes with the fourth grade.

Margaret proposed the idea of the garden club holding one of its meetings in the NHS greenhouse as a way of giving more exposure to the structure.

Rachel was asked to speak at the meeting about the history of the greenhouse and how it came about.

Patty Flaherty would address the group regarding the partnering of NHS and LBHGC.

A date has been tentatively set for July 12, 2016 and the meeting will be called, "In the Greenhouse."

Margaret also proposed the idea of the students selling the Canna lilies since there are approximately 45 plants. It was decided that Brad Gregg should be consulted regarding this.

#### **Sanborn Regional High School**

Pat Yeaton has a contact at Sanborn Regional High School who has expressed to her the schools' interest in building a greenhouse. She would like to use NHS as a resource and has been invited to visit and tour the greenhouse. Brenda suggested that now is a good time to visit because there is so much activity in the greenhouse.

#### **Grant update**

Mark has submitted an application for a grant from the NH council for the arts.

He has met with artist Mark Rangone to discuss the possibility of an art installation to enhance the appearance of the front of the greenhouse. He shared the artist rendering with the stewards and is looking forward to hearing back from the council in July.

The hope is that after this project is completed, NHS can continue with an artist in residence program on a yearly basis.

The grant amount would be \$2,800.00 which would need to be matched in kind. This project would require students to participate in the engineering, planning and building of the installation. Mark McFarlin wanted to mention that Karen Haas, Linda Donahoe and Carrie Broadbent have worked very hard on this project as well.

The next meeting will be May 10, 2016