

## **NHS GREENHOUSE STEWARDS' MEETING- April 7, 2015**

IN ATTENDANCE: Mike Caron, Brenda Eaves, Brad Gregg, Bob Hamilton, Victoria Kilroy, Rachel Robie, Peter Sweet, Lauren deConstant, Pam Hopkins, Rich Boardman, Anna Spaulding

\*Amended minutes of Feb. 10 meeting have been read and amended and are waiting to be accepted.

\*Minutes of March 10 meeting were read, amended and accepted.

### **Updates**

Thank you notes from the 4th grade team and Justine Pallatroni were read and the book The Greenhouse Gardener's Manual given by Justine was gratefully accepted.

Lisa Robie brought back pertinent literature from the Winter Conference of New England Organic Farmers' Organization to share with the Stewards. A folder will be created to contain this and future literature.

### **Greenhouse Maintenance**

Victoria suggested that a maintenance log be added to the Greenhouse Binder, which Rachel had compiled: containing paperwork documenting the project, as well as contact info, vendor invoices, permits for work done, financials for the project and grants received for the project.

Rachel suggested that one person be named to oversee maintenance starting in the fall. Peter explained that as of July 1, 2015, an assistant maintenance manager for the school will come on board.

For this spring, Pam volunteered to oversee the daily use of the Greenhouse, with the expectation that a permanent replacement be found by next fall. Bob offered to help with the mechanical maintenance.

### **Google Calendar and Communication with Staff**

After much discussion of the pros and cons of using a Google Calendar for the Greenhouse, it was voted by the Stewards to inform the staff of the availability and to make sure that staff knows use of the Greenhouse is not exclusive.

Brad will inform the Council (and follow up with an email) on April 8 to urge all staff to get involved in some small way, to feel free to start small projects and consider them experiments. Such use will inform teachers of how they may want to proceed starting in the fall of 2015. Brad's information to the Council will include: use of the Google Calendar, major products and materials already available in the Greenhouse, and Pam's contact information.

Lauren reviewed the purpose of the Log Book, which is housed in the Greenhouse.

To encourage further use of the Greenhouse, Peter will schedule, as soon as possible, a Friday Teachers' Coffee inside the Greenhouse.

Seminars from area Master Gardeners to inform teachers will be set up by the Stewards for next year. Carolyn will contact Ron Christi to see if he is available to run a seminar before the end of this school year.

Brad is in the process of installing an alarm that will call Lamprey Energy and others if the heating and mechanics of the Greenhouse fail, so that the fault can be remedied quickly, in order to keep the plants viable.

During a brainstorming session of how to involve teachers, Anna suggested that she have her students grow micro greens. She asked for help in the timing of the planting. It was suggested that Carolyn be consulted.

### **Updates on Growing Projects**

The 7th grade Service Learning Group's flower project is coming along nicely. Brad reported that on occasion the group has asked for advice from the supplier and have taken suggested measures. They are continually watering, feeding and rotating the plants.

Brenda brought samples of the vegetables that the third graders have been growing in the school. Bob will get the Square Gardening beds set up in the Greenhouse so the plants can be transplanted at the end of this week. Lauren will have a group of 8th graders document the event with a video which they will subsequently submit to a contest.

For this year the third graders will each have one square foot of indoor gardening space, while the 6th grade will each have 4 square feet of outdoor space. Bob and Wendy Crowley are coordinating the 6th grade project.

It is the hope that as many of us as possible can be on hand Sat, April 18, to help prepare the area next to the Greenhouse for outdoor gardening.

### **Reporting to the School Board**

Monthly updates have been given by the administrators at the School Board Meetings, but during our May meeting, we will organize a presentation for the Board in May that will encompass all work and use of the Greenhouse to date.

**NEXT MEETING** - May 12, 2015