

NHS Greenhouse Stewards Meeting December 16, 2014

IN ATTENDANCE: Rich Boardman, Alison Boudreau, Lauren deConstant, Brenda Eaves, John Gamache, Brad Gregg, Bob Hamilton, Pam Hopkins, Carolyn Kelly, Rachel Robie, Peter Sweet

MISSING: Joel Hurvitz

MINUTES: The minutes were reviewed by the committee and amended.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Peter explained that the greenhouse, according to Guy Marshall, could not be kept open over the winter months because it was not designed with that in mind. It is not properly insulated and the underground water pipes might freeze. The staff will be notified immediately that it will be shut down by Guy and his men over December vacation, with the expectation that it will start up again in early March when the students return from February break.

Paula Field and Wendy Crowley will be provided with grow lights so they can transfer the herb plantings inside.

GREENHOUSE NOTEBOOK: Lauren presented the notebook and reviewed its contents -

- Procedures for using the greenhouse
- A log, containing date, time and actions for each class or group to record how the greenhouse was used
- A wish list/concern page, which will be checked often by Pam, Brad and John
- A curriculum section, which will contain brief descriptions of projects that have taken place, to alleviate unnecessary overlapping by teachers

GOOGLE CALENDAR: Alison has set up a new gmail account which will allow teachers and groups to sign up for time in the greenhouse. She will be able to block out times to help control the schedule. Rachel will have dates of our greenhouse meetings posted to the school calendar, encouraging participation at some of the meetings if teachers are interested.

SUPPLIES PURCHASED AND NEEDED: Pam purchased more peat posts to assist in seed plantings, arranged for a second broom and volunteered to purchase 2 large outdoor thermometers that can be

hung in the middle of the greenhouse, so temperatures can be monitored.

FLOOR PLAN/FURNISHINGS: The committee still needs to meet and will take into consideration Wendy Crowley's request for stools and grow lights. They will coordinate their efforts with Brad, who will advise about type of lights. He reported that there are lights that can change the frequency of the red, white and blue spectrum, thereby aiding in controlled experiments with plants. The lights are small, yet effective and are within the budget set aside for the greenhouse.

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION'S REQUEST: Pam Hopkins spoke for the commission, asking how they could help with the greenhouse. Perhaps starting seedlings to be grown for sale and profit or aiding community members in getting an early jump on their planting by supplying a workshop for seed planting.

The greenhouse committee suggested that the Ag members act as liaisons to certain grade levels by attending the next greenhouse meeting and planning how to coordinate this effort. The purpose of this plan would be to help the students do the planting and selling. Perhaps the community will be invited another year.

It was also suggested that the members of the Ag Commission help with weekend watering.

Carolyn Kelly volunteered to contact 4H, UNH and other local agricultural agencies to see if any of them could provide workshops for teachers in January and February to aid in their planning for various growing projects to begin in March.

ZACH PARROTT'S EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT UPDATE: Dick Tharp is in charge of coordinating Zach's project to build a potting bench for the greenhouse. This project will be done in April.

OTHER:

- Bob Hamilton will contact Bob Copp to see if a second rain barrel was planned to catch roof run off
- Brad added padding to metal protrusions for safety
- The administration will address the occurrence of unchaperoned students entering and working in the greenhouse
- Brad suggested that 2 groups might be able to work simultaneously in the facility

- Lisa Cote, a North Hampton master gardener suggested to Pam that the donated plastic pots be sterilized before entering the greenhouse. Pam volunteered to do that

- The question was raised as to how much gas has been used so far. Guy Marshall is sending reports to the school.

- The 6th grade plans to move the outdoor garden, in the spring, next to the greenhouse so that seedlings can be transplanted outdoors when ready. They are also exploring the ideas of an outdoor compost pile, being mindful of the drawbacks.

NEXT MEETING: Rachel suggested and it was agreed that greenhouse meetings will take place on the second Tuesday of each month at 3pm in the conference room.