

NHS GREENHOUSE STEWARDS MEETING

November 7, 2017

3:00- conference room

IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. Anderson, Lisa Cote, Brenda Eaves, Bob Hamilton, Joel Hurvitz, Carolyn Kelly and Rachel Robie.

GREENHOUSE UPDATE:

Joel reported that a windstorm has ripped off a panel opposite the roof on the greenhouse. This was brought to John Gamache's attention and he attempted to slide the panel back into the bracket but was unable to do so.

A call has made to the greenhouse installer, Adam of Adam's Greenhouses, however he is unavailable until November 19.

This is of great concern because of the possibility of early snowfall.

Bob has also contacted the manufacturer of the greenhouse for a referral and is waiting to hear back.

The second grade class is finishing up growing beans.

The kindergarten has been growing carrots.

The preschool grew gourds this year- it was suggested that they grow pumpkins next year in order to enjoy them for Halloween

Wendy Crowley has extra Swiss chard and kale plugs.

Paula has been using greens regularly from the greenhouse for the school lunches and will use them in her display for Food Day.

Joel is starting to focus on closing down the greenhouse for the winter months.

His plan is to test the soil through the UNH Cooperative extension.

This is a free service offered to schools.

Lisa Cote has donated a fifty dollar gift card from Agway.

Brenda suggested using that money toward the purchase of new tools.

FERTILIZER UPDATE:

Lisa has researched whether organic fertilizers can be used in conjunction with the Dosatron machine. She has found that organic fertilizers do not dissolve properly and can cause a clogging issue for the machine.

Since the school is not licensed for the use of chemical fertilizers, Lisa will gather more information with regard to licensing- although it is believed chemicals are not permissible.

Lisa will investigate selling the Dosatron machine and might know of an interested party.

PLANS FOR SPRING PLANTING:

Joel would like to keep a similar model of the current plant sale.

Instead of petunias, he would like to sell vegetables.

Lisa suggested growing/selling multi plant packs of Swiss chard, kale, broccoli and cauliflower.

All were in agreement that a change will be nice.

AFTER SCHOOL GARDEN CLUB UPDATE:

Joel has been in communication with Jim O'Hara with regards to forming an after school garden club. After much discussion it was decided that the club will not be run through the recreation department and instead will be run through the school. This will eliminate extra fees.

The details of the club will be announced in January with a tentative first meeting to be held February 1.

HYDROPONICS UPDATE:

Wendy Crowley is interested in having a hydroponics expert visit the school to educate her fifth grade class on the subject.

The stewards would like to invite Aaron Kline of Kinney Botanicals to the school as a presenter, although Mr. Kinney has very limited hours of availability.

Lisa has offered to contact UNH for a referral for a hydroponics expert.

Dr. Anderson has offered to look into Seacoast School of Technology to see if they might be able to partner with the students.

Dr. Anderson announced that the NHS Greenhouse Stewards were honored this fall as a Gold Circle Award winner for NH Partners in Education.

The NHS Greenhouse Stewards will reconvene December 5, 2017