

## **NHS GREENHOUSE STEWARDS' MEETING June 9, 2015**

IN ATTENDANCE: Brenda Eaves, Carolyn Kelly, Rachel Robie, Peter Sweet, John Gamache, Bob Hamilton, Pam Hopkins, Victoria Kilroy

May Minutes were read and accepted.

### **GARDEN FENCING**

John Gamache and Bob Hamilton have been planning outdoor fencing adjacent to the East side of the greenhouse, for the purpose of containing enough two foot square gardening plots to accommodate 2 grades per season. Inside the greenhouse there is enough square foot gardening space to accommodate 2 grades per season. Eighth Graders will grow tomato plants in buckets. This plan will allow every student K-8 to grow plants at some point in the school year. Some of the harvested vegetables will be taken home, others will be donated to the school cafeteria. Bob proposed that the teachers involved should meet once a month.

The fencing, aside from framing the outdoor garden is designed to have a gate and keep small animals out and let children and adults in. The finished size will be 40' X 52'. Because there is \$1000 still left in the Home Depot account that can be use by the end of June, Bob and John will meet with a fencing installer to determine what materials shall be purchased. John will then pay for the installation with money from the 2015-2016 budget. The pros and cons of various materials were discussed and the committee agreed to allow John and Bob to make the final determination.

The completion date is hoped to coincide with the back-to-school party in August, but if not, it will definitely be completed before students transplant seedlings outdoors (which they will have grown from seed in their classrooms, starting at the beginning of the 2015 school year.)

### **GREENHOUSE BUDGET 2015-16**

It is understood that there is no money in the budget for the coming school year to hire a greenhouse manager. It was suggested that Joel might be able to devote 2-4 hours a week, making sure supplies were available and also to assist some grade levels in projects. The stewards hope that Cindy Jenkins (President of the North Hampton Agricultural Commission) will be

willing to assist Joel with student projects. Pam will propose this idea at the June Agricultural Commission Meeting.

It was agreed by the stewards that our group would initially purchase soil, pots, and other basic materials, using the school's budget. After that, the Manager would continue to refill materials. Individual teachers and grade levels would use their Science Budget's to purchase other necessary materials related to their projects.

Joel, Brenda and Alison will meet to determine what additional materials will be needed and will report at our July meeting. We will also work on a 2016-2017 proposed budget for the greenhouse.

### **SUMMER GREENHOUSE CURRIULUM WORK & RON CHRISTIE**

In July volunteer teachers will receive a stipend to meet with the purpose of generating lessons and units (for the 2015-2016 school year) related to the greenhouse. Carolyn will try to coordinate with Ron Christie to be present for advice and guidance. Pam Hopkins will also try to attend. She also mentioned that Dick Lutz of Churchill's Greenhouse and Kate Fox of Strawberry Banke are wonderful resources.

Two-eighth grade students, Ali McNamara and Charlotte Whittier, have been working on a composting project and Rachel and Carolyn have volunteered to periodically rotate the composter throughout the summer in order for fresh compost to be added to the new outdoor beds in the fall.

### **MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS**

John Gamache met with Guy Marshall to determine the amount of propane needed for the 2015-16 year. It is estimated that 1,000 gal at an approximate cost of \$2000 will be needed. Guy will give the school a special rate for this fuel. The electricity for the greenhouse runs off the garage and is estimated to cost \$15-\$20 a month. Because the water is tied into the school with no meter, it is impossible to determine the amount used for the greenhouse, but it is estimated that the amount is negligible. We will try to use rain water first.

### **NEXT MEETING DATE**

July 14 3-4 pm.