

**NHS Greenhouse Stewards Meeting  
January 13, 2015**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Alison Boudreau, Lauren deConstant, Brenda Eaves, Paula Field, John Gamache, Brad Gregg, Bob Hamilton, Pam Hopkins, Carolyn Kelly, Victoria Kilroy, Tamara Le, Rachel Robie, Peter Sweet

**MISSING:** Rich Boardman, Joel Hurvitz

**GUESTS:** Mike Caron, Cindy Jenkins

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

**HEATING STATUS & GAS USAGE - John Gamache**

John met with Guy Marshall, who is paying for the oil usage for this first year of operation. From Oct. 1 - Dec. 23, with a short shut down due to a malfunction of the equipment, 360 gallons of propane were used. At \$2.25 per gallon, we have used approximately \$810 worth. Considering we might have to pay \$3,000 just for January and February in future years, were we to keep the greenhouse open during those months, John recommends that we shut down at the end of December and open again March 1st.

For the 2015/16 school year, John budgeted \$2,500 for everything: \$2,000 for heat and \$500 for electricity.

Guy Marshall will have his men fix the heating unit prior to the reopening of the greenhouse. Let Guy know if he needs to turn on the heat for brief times in order for work to be done in the greenhouse prior to opening. Please let John know how he can help with preparations prior to start up on March 1st.

**UNH GREENHOUSE MEETING - Brad Gregg**

Brad Gregg and Mike Caron are planning a growing project with two 7th grade service learning groups. In preparation they will meet on January 20th at 9am with Brian Crugg at UNH to discuss the process of growing plants, beginning at the end of February, to be sold in mid-May. All are welcome to join them for the meeting. They expect to start a student-run business which will enhance their grade level study of economics. The plan is to grow a large amount of product to be sold at a profit in May. Brian will suggest the details and they will use approximately 4 tables to grow the product. The students will create logos, keep track of expenses and the money raised. They will determine how to donate the profit at a later date.

Bob Hamilton and John Gamache will assist Brad and Mike in the assembly of the remaining 5 tables.

#### **AGRICULTURE COMMISSION - Pam Hopkins**

Bob Copp, Lisa Cote and Pam Hopkins have volunteered to act as mentors to teachers needing planting assistance. Cindy Jenkins will also help, if available.

Bob Copp will send an official report to The Fuller Foundation as to how their grant money was used.

It is suggested by the Ag Commission that in the spring the major contributors to the greenhouse project be invited to see the progress taking place in the greenhouse.

Pam will check to see if members of the Ag Commission would do workshops during the 7th grade plant sale.

#### **UNH & 4H INFO. - Carolyn Kelly**

Carolyn touched base with several 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.

She reported on the possibility of working with UNH interns/student teachers and 4H.

We are all invited to attend the 13th Annual Winter Conference of NOFA at Rundlett Middle School in Concord, NH on January 31st. The guest speaker will talk about the many different aspects of integrating gardening into the school curriculum.

Ron Christie and Lori O'Connor team with schools regarding curriculum, greenhouse sustainability, and strategies for teachers who are resistant to incorporating the greenhouse into their classroom. Carolyn will contact them to see if they can meet with our committee or a sub-group in January or February for preparation of a possible workshop for teachers in February.

#### **RAIN BARREL & PROJECT PROPOSAL - Bob Hamilton**

A second rain barrel is needed and Paula Field volunteered to donate one. Bob Copp will build a steel frame for the two barrels, which will allow water to be drawn out inside the greenhouse and excess water to be discharged to the outside. He will bear any costs associated with the project.

Bob Hamilton proposed a project based on the book, All New Square Foot Gardening by Mel Bartholomew. Through this pilot project he hopes to discover and correct growing problems in a greenhouse and at the same time inspire students to appreciate and enjoy vegetables.

The project will involve all of the classrooms of one grade level between K and 4. Brenda will ask the 3rd grade team if they would be interested in participating. Planting beds 2 feet by 12 feet will be constructed and divided into square foot plots. Bob will grow the lettuce from seed and give the participants seedlings to grow in the plots. Teachers will note successes and obstacles, as the children raise and harvest the lettuce plants from April 1st to the end of May. Bob will provide compost and hopes to continue a part two in the fall, eventually involving all grade levels at the school in this growing project.

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, February 10th at 3pm in the NHS conference room