

NHS GREENHOUSE STEWARDS MEETING

November 10, 2015

3:00 Office Conference Room

In attendance: Robert Hamilton, Brenda Eaves, Lauren deConstant, Rachel Robie,
Carolyn Kelly

Meeting:

The October minutes were read, amended and approved.

Greenhouse maintenance and preparation for the closing of the greenhouse was discussed.

Brenda Eaves proposed getting new benches and a heavy duty shelf ideally constructed of stainless steel.

The kindergarten and second grade will be pulling the plants from the square foot beds and composting them for next year.

Wendy Crowley is investigating the possibility of setting up a hoop house with the hope that it can be used all winter long.

Square Foot Garden Project update:

Second grade picked spinach, green beans and carrots to give to the cafeteria.

With the help of the kindergarten, fourth and sixth grades are preparing the beds to be planted in the spring.

The fourth and sixth grades are also widening the beds to make weed whacking easier.

It was mentioned that Mark McFarlin has been working with Brenda Eaves to unpack supplies and has enthusiastically taken the lead with the fourth grade team.

Brenda Eaves will share a blog about a greenhouse on Cape Cod that has been pairing middle school students with the younger grades. Brenda was inspired by the idea that the third grade students are managers of this greenhouse. In her opinion, third grade students are old enough to do the job, however, they are rarely given managerial duties in a K through 8 setting. She is hoping to implement third grade managers to assist an adult manager.

Tracy Griffenhagen discussed the possibility of inviting some teachers from Seabrook to come to one of our meetings. She has connected with a third grade teacher at that school who would like to come with her class to observe our greenhouse.

Lauren deConstant suggested a visit to the Hampton Victory garden and to reach out to the various SAUs as resources who can support one another, perhaps a more local approach.

A decision was made to revisit the use of the greenhouse binder. All were in agreement that it was an effective tool in order to see how the greenhouse was being used.

Brenda offered to put in pictures from the Square Foot Gardening Project.

Lauren will update the log.

The binder will be placed in a basket on the new potting bench for all to use.

There will be pages to sign in, noting date and time. The log will enable everyone to see who is visiting the greenhouse and for what purpose. The information will not be shared publicly, it will be used as a reference. The expectation of the binder is to document the history and usage of the greenhouse.

Lauren offered to send an email to the staff as an "FYI" that the binder is in the greenhouse.

Brenda will reach out individually to kindergarten, second and sixth grades to show how to use the binder.

On November 19th, the school board will officially accept the potting bench from Zachary Parrott. Rachel has agreed to attend in Lauren's place as a representative of the NHS Greenhouse Stewards.

It was acknowledged that we have not sent Zachary Parrott a personal thank you on behalf of the NHS Greenhouse Stewards. Lauren will write him a card and Rachel will present it to him at the school board meeting.

The eighth grade will be growing tomatoes for their square foot gardening project.

They will be starting their tomatoes from seed January 15 and hopefully will have fruit in hand by the end of the school year.

They are in need of fifty 5-6 gallon buckets.

Rachel has offered to ask Home Depot for a donation.

Bob will donate compost.

It was established that there will also be a need for vermiculite and peat moss- Brenda will compile a list of items needed.

The next meeting will be on December 8, 2015.