

Square Foot Garden Project meeting
September 1, 2015

Present: Bob Hamilton, Anna Spaulding, Cindy Smith, Lindsay Lewis, Brenda Eaves, Mark McFarlin, and Brenda Tharp

Since our August meeting Bob has been working to establish the beds in the outside garden and to build the square foot frames needed for the greenhouse. Bob worked with Marybeth obtain the supplies for the square foot frames themselves and also the materials needed to fill the beds - peat moss, vermiculite and compost in equal parts.

Zack Parrott completed and delivered the potting bench he built for the greenhouse and school as part of his work to earn his Eagle Scout rank. It is wonderful.

Brenda submitted an order for the consumable supplies needed for the square foot project: seeds and wooden labeling sticks. She also submitted an order for the reusable supplies that will be needed by the project for the spring planting group like germination mats, grow lights and seedling trays.

Fall planting will begin as soon as possible. 5th and 7th grade will be planting the same plants this time around. We decided this because we feel these plants will allow for a successful harvest before frost and lack of light stops the plants from growing. We also need experience to know more precisely how the growing will go and what additional things we might need to do to make other plantings successful. Kale and chard seedlings are ready to put in the outside beds. The seeds to be planted there are spinach, mesclun mix (lettuces and greens) and Easter egg radishes.

We walked out to the garden and the greenhouse. The 7th grade will use the first three sets of beds and the 5th will use the back three. The soil has been tested by UNH and found to be rich and suitable for growing. The 7th graders will be planting their gardens on Thursday, September 1. The 5th graders will be planting their gardens on Wednesday, September 7. The Hamiltons will help them with their planting. We learned from the spring pilot that how the beds are planted impacts the ease with which the entire garden can be maintained. We need space to mow the grass between the beds and organization makes weeding and watering easier as well.

Brenda, Mark and Bob will meet Wednesday to make sure the indoor square foot frames are ready. The second grade will be planting bush beans on September 3 and spinach the following week on September 10. Kindergarten will be planting their carrots on Friday, September 11.

Our next meeting will be October 6 at 3:00. We'll have snacks.

The attached photo was taken 9/9/15 - the 7th grade seeds had germinated in less than a week. That was one great thing our recent heat wave did for us.