

NHS GREENHOUSE STEWARDS' MEETING- March 10, 2015

IN ATTENDANCE: Mike Caron, Brenda Eaves, Brad Gregg, Bob Hamilton, Carolyn Kelly, Victoria Kilroy, Rachel Robie, Peter Sweet, Lauren deConstant, Alison Boudreau, Paula Field, Pam Hopkins

*Amended minutes of Jan. 13 meeting were accepted.

*Minutes of Feb 10 meeting were read and amended.

HAMPTON UNION

Rachel shared that at the February School Board Meeting the greenhouse was accepted by the School Board. Representatives from PAL and the Greenhouse Committee made brief presentations and a packet of documentation was given to the board prior to the meeting. Victoria Kilroy pointed out that unfortunately the February School Board meeting was not filmed so she suggested that perhaps an article could be written for publication in the Hampton Union, summarizing the history of the Greenhouse Project. Rachel is giving this consideration. Rachel asked that at the March meeting, Peter include in his administrator's report that the greenhouse was accepted by the School Board and is in operation.

USE UPDATE

After members of the staff tunneled in, Jim Jones was called and removed some of the snow. Guy Marshall will fill the tanks, check the heater and valves in anticipation of turning on the water as well as the heat.

THIRD GRADE GROWING PROJECT

Brenda reported that before vacation, the third grade had planted broccoli, lettuce, tomatoes, and kale in their classrooms. Growth has greatly improved with the use of grow lights. After two transplants the

plants will be ready to be transferred to the greenhouse in about 3 weeks.

7TH GRADE SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT

Brad and Mike reported that once they had researched the idea extensively, they approached the 2 Service Learning Groups of 10 students, who have banded together as a group of 20 and helped them develop business plans, including profit and loss scenarios using spreadsheets. The students calculated that they only have to end up with 210 viable out of a thousand plants in order to break even! Of course they hope for a much better outcome. They are planning to sell 75% of the plants.

In addition to a business plan, the group chose, through consensus the name "Founding Flowers" and are close to choosing a logo for their t-shirts.

On March 16 they will pot up 1,000 plants, including several varieties of petunias and begin growing them to sell just before Mother's Day.

FRAMEWORK OF OUR COMMITTEE, INCLUDING MEMBERSHIP FOR NEXT YEAR

Bob Hamilton submitted a proposal for a framework. Although some members were willing to take a look at it, Peter suggested that it was a bit premature and the committee decided to revisit the framework next spring after having had time to reflect on a full year of greenhouse operation and integration.

It was decided that the current members should remain on the committee until the spring of 2016. At that time, a rotation of teachers will begin, so that there are always veteran members and new members during each year. Mike Caron requested to be a permanent member from year to year.

OTHER

Paula Field requested that a group begin growing produce in the fall of 2015 that can be harvested for Food Day which annually occurs in October.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for April 7.