

# BOSCAWEN AGRICULTURAAL COMMISSION

## Garden Committee

Minutes Meeting of January 22, 2015 @ 6:30 to 8:00 PM

Town Office 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Meeting Room

**Attendees:** Ann Lacroix, Louise Jacob, Angela Swyers, Sarah Chappelow, Tom Danko, and John Keegan

**Minutes approved:** December 22nd minutes approved with corrections to the list of herbs to be planted.

### Follow-up on outstanding action items:

**Action Plan:** *Complete the Knotweed Demonstration write-up.* Pending.

**Action Plan:** *Discussion of the location of the herb garden between J. Keegan and D. Hollins, in light of the town's plans to eventually relocate part of Woodbury Lane to the west of its current route. Dean is not sure of the route due to the fact no test pit has been dug to insure the route does not go over the stump dump in that section of the Knowlton property.* **Action taken:** To locate the herb garden to the west of the compost bins.

**Action Plan:** *Identify specific ways to inform the public about the community garden.* **Action taken:** See below

**Action Plan:** *L. Jacob to present sign options to mark the herbs.* **Action taken:** Louise presented 4 options: concrete signs, wooden markers and 2 different designs of clay signs.

**Action taken:** Both clay designs were accepted.

**Action Plan:** *Herb garden sign.* **Action taken:** Based on A. Lacroix's email which was part of the meeting package sent on January 12<sup>th</sup> and committee discussion of her options the following decisions were taken:

- The 2'x2' sign will read, "culinary (?) herb garden"
- Be at eye level
- Will have a clear plastic container on the post (like those used at homes for sale) for herb related information

**Education:** Discussion started with the 'twilight talks' which have been discussed previously. Points discussed were: frequency, publicity and presenters.

How to use *The Latest Dirt* effectively to get the word out about the herb garden and how best to use the herbs. As a result the decision was taken to ask each committee member to provide at least one favorite recipe, including at least one herb grown in the herb garden. The recipes are to be emailed to J. Keegan and cc'ed to E. Clow by Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>. In this way, the material will be available to E. Clow to include in *The Latest Dirt* and for handouts at the garden. The following commitments were made.

Person	Herb	Additional information
Louise Jacob	Winter Savory	Will bring an herb cook book to the February 5 <sup>th</sup> meeting.
Ann Lacroix	Multiple	Will do a series of recipes
Angela Swyers	?	With potatoes
Sarah Chappelow	Basil	For pesto
Tom Danko	Rosemary	Needs to talk with the cook
John Keegan	?	Needs to talk with the cook

**Herb Garden Construction:** A. Lacroix announced that at her ‘day job’ a *Coast of Maine* sales man had come to Blue Seal with a new product, lobster based compost. As part of their promotional campaign, Coast of Maine is looking for community and not-for-profit groups to whom they can donate a 4’x4’ pallet of the new product. Ann signed-up the community garden for a donation. The compost will be delivered to Blue Seal in the spring where it can be stored until needed at the garden. The AgComm has to provide transport from Concord which J. Keegan will do. A *Coast of Maine* sign advertising the product will also be placed at the garden.

**Action Plan:** J. Keegan will provide transport from Concord to the garden once Ann has received the shipment. A *Coast of Maine* sign advertising the product will be placed at the garden. A ‘thank you’ letter from the Commission will be sent to Coast of Maine by the end of the gardening season.

Pallets (4’x4’) will be required near the herb garden to contain the sand, peat moss, and manure needed to build the herb garden and maintain its fertility.

**Action Plan:** J. Keegan will speak with the owner of the pallet shop here in town (Crete’s) to request a donation of 12 4’x4’ pallets.

A manure source was the next discussion point.

**Action Plan:** J. Keegan will speak with Roger Sanborn to ask for a donation of horse manure.

**Garden Sign on Corn Hill Road:** A. Swyers provided an example to the sign for feedback from the committee members. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive. In addition to the ‘core’ sign the committee recommended that attached (by S hooks below the ‘core’ sign) include the following:

- Plots Available Now
- Monday Night garden Lecture
- Draft Horse Event the Saturday
- Closed for the Season Thank You

**Action Plan: A. Swyers will bring these recommendations to the AgComm meeting on February 12<sup>th</sup> for discussion and action. Funding will come from the AgComm budget.**

**Garden Kiosk:** During the past week J. Keegan had successfully contacted Peter Satterfield, a vocational arts teacher at Merrimack Valley Middle School, and arranged for he and A. Swyers to meet in the near future to review the kiosk sketches and discuss what is involved in having his students make the kiosk.

**Action Plan: A. Swyers will meet with P. Satterfield prior to the February 5<sup>th</sup> meeting and arrange, if possible, for him and his students to begin the kiosk project. Any costs will be covered from the AgComm budget.**

**Publicity:** During discussions about signage and the kiosk questions arose about how the community garden has been publicized and what might be better options for informing Boscawen residents about this public service. Among the ideas that emerged were: a Facebook Page for the Community Garden, using the town website more effectively, articles in the *Concord Monitor*, flyers, ‘piggy-backing’ on other local (town) events and talking more to neighbors. At the end of the meeting the only action agree on was to check the town’s policy related to Facebook Pages for town connected boards and commissions. A pending question related to Facebook was who would manage the page.

**Action Plan: J. Keegan to check with A. Hardy about the town’s policy regarding Facebook prior to the meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup>.**

**Next meeting:** February 5<sup>th</sup> @5:30 in the 4<sup>th</sup> floor meeting room will focus on the pending action items from this meeting and the gardener application package.