

Uxbridge Community Gardens
Meeting minutes 2-13-12

DEC 13 '12 AM 09:48

New Business:

1. Elect Member at Large Committee Member - Jackie Wheelock was elected to serve on the committee
2. Language for those applying –On the UCG application, plot renters will be referred to as club “members”
3. Age allowed for gardeners – at least 18 years of age or with adult signed consent
4. Initial year special 5-year plot assignment offering – Russ proposed the idea of renting plots for \$100 for a 5 year period. This will potentially increase initial revenue. Barbara Hall voiced concern for running low on funds in subsequent years. We will table this idea until we have a better idea of what our fundraising totals will be.

Question of returning renters – will you be able to get the same plot the following year? Likely yes, we may add a stipulation to the guidelines

5. Soil testing – Ann Hanscom provided feedback that Julie Rosen from Northeast Organic Farmers Association recommends private soil testing. Ann is going to get additional information (costs & what is included with private testing) from NOFA this week. UMASS will provide nutrient & heavy metals testing, and also a level of soil structure testing. See attached UMASS testing information. UCG will compare the two options and then make arrangements for testing to be done.
6. Partnerships with UHS (including Food Service) –Janice/Karin/Kris
UHS Ed Foundation – MaryJo suggested applying for a grant if there is a teacher who would be interested in starting an educational program affiliated with the UCG. We will also see if Coalition for Community of Caring is interested in partnering with the garden, maybe assist with a senior center or food pantry plot. DI is doing some advertising by passing out information while wearing a carrot costume.
7. Partnership with Food Pantry – Phyllis Roy – suggested putting a collection box and memo on the garden sign asking gardeners if they would like to donate extra produce. They can also drop off on Wednesdays. Maybe next year the food pantry could have a plot and have the members all help maintain.
8. Kris will do facebook page – We can have a Q&A section....pictures, etc.....

Old Business:

1. Review Mission Statement – Jean was wondering if the wording should be NUTRITION or NUTRITIONAL information. The wording will be changed to NUTRITION.
2. Review Application – accepted with the following revisions: “Ground rules will accompany this application” (not be put on the back) and a statement “By signing this form, I agree to the rules and guidelines” and the 3 lines up top will be removed.

3. Review Garden Rules – Discussion. Add line will “remove all structures at the end of gardening season”. Reword what is allowed for fencing – suggest no permanent structures. Can address at the Q&A

Russ asking about perennial plants, rhubarb, etc...Most comm.. gardens leave plots completely cleared at the end of the season. You could also have a designated perennial area.

General garden work days – may be brought up on March 5th meeting. Just put it out for general discussion.

4. Review NUT article – was written by Gordon Keegan. Barbara will send the article and a copy of the logo & photos to Denise at the NUT. Information regarding the speaker will also be added. Monday, March 26th 630-8pm at the Uxbridge public library. Julie Rawson of Northeast Organic Farmers Association is the speaker. “Preparation for Success” is the topic. The fee is \$150. Mary Jo Murray will ask the Friends of Library if they would be willing to sponsor the presentation. Julie Rawson will need a powerpoint setup.

Ann H will check if she is bringing her own laptop, and if not what version of Microsoft is she using for compatability. Ann will also send Julie a copy of our organic gardening guidelines.

5. Review Hold Harmless form –Mary Jo Murray/Sean Hendricks – This form will be part of the garden application packet. The town manager has approved the form that MaryJo has drafted. See attached.

The meeting on March 5th is a Q&A

Kelly - town manager. The town is in the process of switching over to a new website format. There is no guarantee that we will have our own page before March 1, however the forms will be put on the main page of the town website. Clerks office, senior center, library will have forms. Kris will put blurb on cable wheel. Russ suggested putting it on the UYSL website as well. Kim DeMers will check with UYSL.

6. Review Organic Gardening Guidelines –Ann/Edwina/Mary – Committee has approved of the organic guidelines as written. These will be available with the application & guidelines as well. Mary suggests having a suggested list of books available at the March 26th meeting for people to take out. Ann will speak to the librarian. Ann brought up a concern with the guidelines with the “Use Of BT”
7. Review important Dates NUT article submitted on the 15th, March 1st published. Also cable wheel message and Facebook page. Ask Barry to tape meeting on the 5th. Microphones can be set up. March 5th will be the Q&A meeting Lower Town Hall 7pm, March 26th Organic meeting at the library.
8. Update fundraising/sponsors – Jean/Jen – We need clarification for language of 501C3. Sean Hendricks clarified that we may need to look into incorporating into a non-profit agency, but we might not be able to as a town committee. The town is also tax exempt, Sean is going to look into it further. Jean will send Sean some examples of grants that the UCG would like to apply for. Sean will see how restrictive the language is and see if there are any loopholes that we can fit into. May need to look into a “Friends of the UCG”.

Sandy & Sean have reached out to a corporation in town to hopefully get a large donation. There is a donation form available if people would like to assist with asking for local donors. We can take private donations also. Let Sandy know via email who you would like to solicit so that we don't duplicate efforts. Ann Hanscom has provided \$10 startup funds. Kim will email out the donation request form. Donations are for goods as well as monetary donations. Sean said the town may have to offer receipts for charitable donations. Barbara has drafted a thank you with an acknowledgment of the gift to be used as a receipt. Mail will go into the UCG mailbox at town hall.

Other ideas:

Seedling sale – look to start for next year

Using logo and selling tShirts & hats. Sports Minded might be able to assist.

9. Update from Matt Benedict – Matt will build a message center. Recruiting boyscouts to assist with lot prep.

10. Updated Budget – the budget has been updated to address storage tanks (\$3xxx)vs. well (\$4500), no water (\$200)

11. Main Points to be discussed at Q & A meeting – March 5th lower town hall. Barbara suggests using the format of the ground rules as a guideline. Jean suggests doing a brief introduction. Barbara will introduce it via skype.

Barbara will call Jerry to see about dates for plowing and garden layouts.

Next meeting March 12th 7pm lower town hall.

Need to set aside time with town manager for swearing in of officers.

Krister Hoet
Julie Wheelock
Sandra Lerner