

Oct. 3, 2017, CLINTON COMMUNITY GARDEN SC

In attendance:

John

Ruth

Jenny M.

Andy

Annie

Foram

Tom

Charles

Michele

Sandra

Jenny S.

Faser

Absent: Laura

Meeting called to order 7:35

1- Sept. Minutes approved.

2- Corey Johnson's chief of staff was to talk to us about possible funding for projects. He did not make it to the meeting. Laura later emailed saying there was a glitch at her end.

3- Compost:

John was thanked for taking down the loose and rotted members in the compost area.

Andy said he had reached out to the general garden membership and got between 5-10 responses saying they would be interested in participating in the compost committee.

Andy suggested forwarding those names and contacts to John, Jenny S., and Sandra who are presently the compost Committee.

Andy suggested they meet on a Saturday to discuss the options for the compost and return to the SC by the December meeting with a couple options.

A date was not set for this meeting.

The presumption is that it will be organized by the present committee with the new people who would like to be involved.

Annie suggested that the garden could put up a couple thousand to re-do the compost area.

No motion was made.

4- Annie discussed the front bed policy for new front bed gardeners and how this policy was not followed in asking Michele to please take over the west front bed along the fence.

Annie nominated Michele, and she was unanimously approved.

Michelle presented her outline of what she would like to do in that bed, and made a project proposal of \$600 in order to execute it.

This motion was unanimously approved.

5- Oct. 21, '17, will be Clean-up Day with soil amendments arriving in the AM. Andy said he would reach out to Jane Greenlaw so soil amendments could be purchased for the Hell's Kitchen Playground park, too.

6- John said the fence needed to be painted.

Andy said the fence repair guy said it did not.

It was unclear where this got left.

7- Michele asked about the plastic along the fence.

Andy said it was to keep the dogs from urinating on the garden plants.

Michele said a section for her front bed needed to be replaced.

Andy said they had to order plastic and drill holes, it was not big deal.

It was unclear where this was left.

7- Michele and John will pick out two new wheelbarrows. \$500 tops.

8- Tom will continue to follow-up re: the garbage bikes.

9- The wording for the sign on the front gate re: opening and closing will be revised by Michele and Jenny S.

10- Delivery of the honey for Clean-Up Day was discussed along with the price of the honey.

It was agreed to use 8oz. jars this year.

The price will depend on the amount of honey harvested.

The honey will be delivered on Oct. 14, but it was not clear where.

Union Sq. or the garden.

Andy said he would get the honey at Union Sq. if that is where Andrew delivers it.

11- It was agreed to get 3 50lb. bags of salt from Garden Hrdw.

12- John and Jenny M. asked that the No Dog sign be moved so it was visible when the gate was open.

Jenny M. clarifies- "I have asked not only to move the no dogs sign from the gate to the fence -- it can stay there as is. But we do need bigger and more prominent signs "no dogs" on the fence as well. And we should either remove the "clean up after your dog" sign from the fence near the gate -- it suggests you can have the dogs in the garden as long as you clean up after them, or move it somewhere farther away from the gate. So that when people are approaching the garden gate it's abundantly clear that no dogs are allowed in the garden."

13- A general discussion was held about service dogs.

It was agreed that we could ask for the papers from people but that service dogs were allowed in NYC parks.

Andy said he would contact Green Thumb about their policy.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20PM.

Minutes by Tom Cayler

Clinton Community Garden Steering Committee Nov. 7, 2017

In attendance:

Foram

Sandra Shipley

John

Andy

Tom

Charles

Ruth

Jenny S.

1- Call to order 7:35PM

2- Minutes approved

3- Compost

Anne Haas wrote an email to the SC about composting.

“Although it’s a pity that the garden debris compost structure was reduced to three bins, it remains quite workable. This is a time-tested—very inexpensive—setup for composting and Joe and I and a few people from the food-scrap team have been keeping it working as shown by the results of finished compost in the third bin. In terms of the structure, replacement of wood and hardware at regular intervals is all that is really required. Beyond these basics, it would be nice to have a simple roof over the structure. What we really need is composting education at the garden for all gardeners, accompanied by an understanding by all gardeners that taking care of and recycling our own garden waste is an essential part of gardening, especially community gardening. We are stewards of a piece of public land, after all. As you will recall, I have offered to do a Composting 101 for gardeners and that offer still stands. —Anne”

After a brief discussion it was decided that Anne and Joe should run the compost committee. As they make suggestions for what might be needed to help the compost along (both garden and kitchen scrap), the SC will fund their operation.

The SC would like Anne to write up some signage to be posted, and a brief description how the composting should and is being done that can be sent to all back and front bed gardeners.

That way, if there should be a problem in the future where a gardener complains that they do not know how the composting works, we can say, “Please read the signage and your email!”

This was unanimously passed.

4-Rear Patios/Garden Areas

Mark Dieffenbacher and Debra Mullins have volunteered to re-configure the back garden patio area, and purchase new furniture with the help of funding from the NY Community Trust.

After discussion it was motioned, seconded, and passed that:
Mark and Debbie be asked to chair the Back Patio Committee.
Several SC committee members who expressed an interest in working with Mark and Debbie will contact Mark and Debbie in order to offer their services.

The path way to the back patio will be modified as proposed to be more direct and accessible.

A budget of from \$750 to \$1500 in approved for the purchase of new furniture that will be comfortable, durable, and attractive.

Electronic communications from this committee are requested to keep the SC apprised of progress.

The SC has asked the Back Patio Committee to attend the January SC Meeting with pictures/sketches of the furniture they thought would be compatible for the patio. At the meeting the SC will vote on the furniture for the patio.

5- Front Benches

Dru asked the SC to consider making the front benches back into gardens. Those areas were unauthorized gardens for many years. But three years ago, the SC decided that since they were not actually part of the original garden design they could not remain as beds.

Since then, they have become brick yards and stone quarries.

Several ideas were kicked around:

If they were to be officially gardens should they be uniform in shape and size?

Should they be offered to people on the back-bed waiting list?

Should they only be offered to back-bed gardeners?

There are two front beds cared for by non-back-bed gardeners.

After much discussion it was decided that the chair would send an email to all front and back-bed gardeners asking if there was interest in gardening those spots.

Ultimately, if those spots are officially made into gardens, the gardeners would make the decisions as to how they should look and be tended.

If there is interest, the SC will consider making those areas into official plots.

Stay tuned.

6-Service Dogs

Jenny S. has a very detailed description of what is, in fact, a service dog (animal?). Besides service dogs(?) there are also emotional support dogs and therapy dogs. The different designations have different rights(?). Service dogs are trained and have to be allowed in the garden, or anywhere that does not normally allow pets. Emotional support dogs are by prescription and have to be allowed in residential apartments that would not otherwise allow dogs. Therapy dogs? Sorry your correspondent did not understand the difference there.

Andy and Jenny S. are going to confab over these delineations and devise signage to inform garden users what kind of dogs(pets) are allowed in the garden and what they might have to show if asked to prove it.

7- 9th Ave Fair

Sandra, Foram, Ruth, and Michele are the 9th Ave. Fair Committee.

They want to get started early so they can be sure to have the right size T-shirts this year. Last year we ran out of everything but the largest and smallest. They will also consider other items to sell.

They were encouraged to talk to Vivian Hoffman who had been doing the ordering for the past few years.

8-Old Business:

Sidewalk Committee-Ruth has only 5 active members. She would like Anne Haas to provide containers for the leaves they sweep up.

Wheel barrows-a new wheel barrow needs to be put together. John is looking for a smaller wheel barrow to purchase.

Allotment of Front Bed Gardens- Jenny S. brought up that the allotment of the westside front bed along the sidewalk fence had not been done as per garden rules. The secretary read pt.4 of the Oct. minutes into this record. Jenny stated that she had no clue that the front bed had been available for taking over. After the Oct. SC meeting she realized that neither had the rest of the back gardeners. On reflection after that meeting, she realized how flagrantly the rules had been abused. And that is not a good precedent nor is it fair. We either go by the rules or we don't! Jenny felt that we needed to be clear about how front beds were allotted to gardeners and that the rules be followed.

Jenny S. also brought up whether we were spending money just to be spending money. Andy said that certain grants had to be spent or we would lose them.

Sandra brought up having a new irrigation system put in for the front beds. For some front bed gardeners the water is a long ways away. Andy said we don't presently have a plumber to do that kind of work.

Foram brought up transparency with the Plot Committee. Andy suggested she take any questions directly to Faser and Steve.

Jenny S. was approached by a guy who said he knew about lawns. It was suggested that she connect him to Anne Haas.

Foram asked about lights for the sidewalk. It is dark. We weren't sure who to even ask about that: DoT? Parks? Can we purchase and install solar lights?

Not sure what to do about that one.

9- New business:

Replace Plexiglass along front fence.

Andy said Stan would install it if the SC would purchase.

It's around \$1250 to keep the dogs from pissing on the front beds.

10- Honey

No one showed up for Clean-up Day so the honey did not get sold.

The following is an email from Andy sent to the SC on Thursday, Nov. 9.

"Later today I am going to send a email out to all gardeners back and front that I will sell honey on Saturday from 10-11am, limit 2. I will be out of town the 12-19th, but I wonder if a few people would like to help in selling the rest on the 18th.

My idea for the 18th is to offer to the back gardeners in the shed from 10-11, and then move it up front and sell to all keyholders from 11-12, again, limit 2. After 12, first come first served, as many as you want.

Jars will sell for \$10, and like keys, must be accounted for and logged in. As I did last year, I am going to bring three jars to each of our large funders.

I need volunteers for next weekend. Please step up. I think two shifts or two strong people that can do 2 hours + would be helpful. I am asking current SC members and other responsible members to assist.

AP”

Meeting adjourned at 9:00PM

Jan. 2, 2017, CLINTON COMMUNITY GARDEN SC

In attendance:

John
Ruth
Jenny M.
Andy
Tom
Charles
Michele
Laura

Absent:

Annie
Foram
Jenny S.
Faser
Sandra

Meeting called to order 7:35

1- Nov. Minutes approved.

2- Andy, Laura, and Tom are ending their second term this election.

3- Andy would like it if all the volunteer jobs had descriptions done for them so they can be posted.

With SC members acting as committee chairs it would be good if we can keep some uniformity in the committees.

Tom said he would write up the Snow Crew.

John said he would write up the Shed Committee.

Michele would like to be the chair of the Bee committee.

4- The Snow Committee requested two more 50lb bags of salt and one of sand for the predicted storm Wed-Thurs. This was approved.

5- The John Carney Award for Gardener of the Year was discussed. Since an award was not given the last two year, two awards for this year were discussed. An email to that effect will be sent by Andy.

Tom nominated David Wirth as a Snow Crew member who had not missed a weather related call in five years.

Charles seconded that nomination.

Final selection(s) will be made at the February meeting.

6- No treasurers report.

7- Michele reported that the final honey sale went very well. She suggested that the price could be raised to \$12/bottle.

8- Old Business:

The on-going problem of volunteers signing up for committees but not participating in them.

How are volunteer hours recorded?

How are the 10 hour/year enforced?

A motion was made to write up a How To Record Hours On The Website protocol.

This would then be announced at the membership meeting and sent by email to all members.

At the end of the garden's year (Feb.), the hours would be compiled and reviewed by committee chairs. If members were not performing their hours, a letter would be added to their plot renewal form stating that the 10 hours a year is not onerous and not optional.

If members did not perform their tens hours a year, a letter asking if they would please surrender their plot would then be included.

As no member has ever lost a plot because of non-performance of hours, much discussion ensued.

As the hour grew late, the motion was tabled with the proviso that a How To Record Hours On The Website protocol be drafted and forwarded to the SC. (that was done on Wednesday morning 010318).

9- \$300 was appropriated to provide a roof over the compost bins.

10- \$1500 had been appropriated for plexiglass along the front fence.

The cost would be closer to \$1200.

11- The incident of vandalism that Jane Greenlaw had witnessed and been harassed by was discussed.

The garden needs better lock up security at night.

Andy reported that two new people who live on West 48 had agreed to be the gate-locking “back-stops”, and would keep an eye on the garden gate at night.

Charles proposed that the garden security be addressed at the membership meeting.

It was the SC’s strong feeling that we need to reach out to committed garden members to become “Garden Guardians” who participate on the Gate Committee and keep their eyes open for any access problems.

12- All issues to be addressed at the membership meeting have to be proposed by the Feb. meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32PM.

Minutes by Tom Cayler