



wendi weinberg <wendimw@gmail.com>

Community Garden Minutes 6/8/16

Pelham Neighbor 2 Neighbor Community Garden Minutes 6/8/16

Present: Wendi Weinberg, Cyd Reiman, Roger Conant, Abbie Jenks, Sue Tippet, Amy Pulley, YeYe , Heidi Dollard

Meeting Called to Order 6:45 p.m.

Minutes Approved from 5/4/16 meeting.

Please add Heidi's cell phone # to phone list: 413-530-7512

Amy Pulley's e-mail address: creamery3@verizon.net

Agenda Item #1

Pollinator Garden - Amy Pulley (pollinator garden expert) and Sue T. went to the garden before this meeting. Amy offered suggestions and advice on how to proceed with our 36 foot round pollinator garden. Here are some of her (many!) suggestions:

- a) It's a big space, alot of upkeep! Perhaps we can involve some school classes on the upkeep of it, turning it into a working *educational* field trip.
- b) Use *perennial native plants* - (Amy is happy to help us with plant selection). Probably among us there are enough perennial pollinating plants in our own yards that we can divide and contribute to the pollinator garden...such as Borage, Echinacea, Button Bush, Black Eyed Susan, Bee Balm, etc. Leave the milkweed.
- c) Need to *remove* lots of *bittersweet*....*soon* - *get it out by the roots!*
- d) *Plant sources* for purchasing: Nasami and Amherst Wetland Plants. Diversity is key with a succession of blooms from April to October. When purchasing plants, be sure to ask if the seed pesticide coating 'Neonic' was used...it is very toxic & messes with the nervous system of the insects.
- e) *MOW* it at the end of July, ALL of it, AFTER the milkweed is done. Than new milkweed shoots will come up for end of Fall for the 2nd round of butterflies.
- f) Perhaps get *bamboo* poles from Gabor Lukacs in Amherst to mark the perimeter of the pollinator garden.
- g) Create *paths* in it? After mowing, cardboard down. Than cover with wood chips, NOT bark chips but from chipped branches, which has more nutrition for the soil. Amy knows a couple of sources.

PLANT SUMMARY: succession of blooms / plants from our own yards / color variety / shape variety for different pollinators / multiples of same plant in a grouping / avoid overly hybridized, double flower plants / use native perennials / avoid nursery raised plants treated with 'Neonic' pesticide / aggressive spreading plants can be sunk in the ground in a pot to contain them (such as mint).

Agenda Item #2

Lance Hodes from Haydenville Woodworking offered to meet with Cyd to ID the *timbers*.

Agenda Item #3

Parking Lot - Rick Adamcek and Kevin have a plan for the parking area - 4 or 5 parking spots. Gravel will be put down. Rick will cut down a few trees for vehicle access into the garden field from the stone wall. This will be necessary access once the parking area is created. Money for all this comes from CPA budget for the Community Garden.

Agenda Item #4

Mowing and Maintenance - Wendi offered to lop down tall weeds in the unworked garden plot. Earl mowed the field once. Rick Adamcek cannot promise to mow on the regular town mowing schedule, but will try. Mowing needs to cut more tightly into the perimeter edge of the garden to keep the weeds down.

Agenda Item #5

Should we have an on site meet & greet for gardeners and committee members? Not sure there is interest from the 4 gardeners, besides the 2 who are committee members.
Discussed and decided to wait and see how much more activity happens there.

Agenda Item #6 - Miscellaneous

- ~ Library asked if we want to keep the poster and *garden plot applications* visible still? We agreed 'yes'.
- ~ Nancy Grossman replaced Edna (who retired) at Town Hall. Finally we can deposit the \$160. we received in plot donations! Bills for reimbursement now go to Nancy.
- ~ Edge the garden perimeter with the timbers as a barrier to help keep weeds out of the garden beds?
- ~ Each of us, between now and next meeting, go to the pollinator garden and pull some bittersweet!
- ~ Let's not have a policy about plot renewal for next year until we need one....this thought followed a conversation about plot demand for '17 and expanding # of plots.

Agenda Item #7

What is next for this committee? Designing the pollinator garden & scheduling a work day (or two). Invite the community to help?

NEXT MEETING July 13th, 6:45 p.m. in the library history room.

Meeting Adjourned 7:45 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Wendi W.