

GROUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT

May 16, 2012

Submitted by Roy Benner, Chairman, 05/13/2012 to Barbara Morgan

Accomplished tasks:

1. Developed a list of needed projects that Sharing Garden renters may do towards their "Hours of Service." This list was posted in the Garden Shed where a logbook of their work hours was also housed. I constructed a wall holder for this three-ring binder, which has a place for names of gardeners (alphabetically listed) for posting their volunteer hours. Suggestions for other projects (tasks) are welcome; please forward to me a list of suggestions.
2. Cut the all grass one time (4/20).
3. Cut about ½ of the grass a second time (5/7).
4. Purchased a new Gravely Mower Belt, since the old belt was so stretched it will not turn the third blade and the tensioner is all the way in. The belt cost \$48.26 at Annapolis Lawn and Garden. Gravely Spark Plug was purchased at this same place for \$13.65. This totaled \$56.91, tax exempt purchase.
5. Installed the GFPS Warning signs at the four designated areas.
6. Completed Plastic Bin Shelves in the Servant's Quarters, for gardener's plastic bins.
7. Removed several wheel barrows of large stones and/or concrete pieces from along the chain link fence to facilitate grass cutting. Placed these rocks in pile by Servant's Quarters.
8. Planted several small flower gardens first with pansies now with Purple Osteospermum around the garden gates, the Hitching Post, and other small planter areas surrounded with round rocks.
9. Developed a trails map with Ben Reynolds using GPS mapping.
10. A combination lock was purchased and installed on the Goshen Farm House chain link fence gates.
11. Installed two large circular compost bins on the backside of the garden fence, to the west.
12. Submitted Article to the Caper for the June Issue, thru Barbara Morgan.
13. Composed an Article on the soils and topography of Goshen Farm for posting on the web site.

Needs Accomplishing:

1. Short Term:
 - a. Install a BGE Lock on the House gate, so BGE Meter Reader can get in and read the electric meter.
 - b. Cut the growing grass.
 - c. Get GFPS business cards for use in soliciting donations to the GFPS.
 - d. Complete the GFPS Committee Chairman Guidelines – hanging since 2011.
2. Long Term:
 - a. Large tree near the Servant's Quarter's, Site #8, should be removed at some point (If it falls, the roots will destroy the Servant's Quarters). Removal also of another large vine-covered tree located to the southwest end of the Sharing Garden. Both should be removed for safety reasons.
 - b. Smaller Tree of Heaven stumps to be removed in the front and north side areas of the Farm House yard (this will always be in progress).
 - c. Construct a brick patio for sitting within the entrance of the Sharing Garden. Bricks are being gathered.
 - d. Develop a master plan for the grounds (trees, open areas, paths, maintenance, and areas of use).

Needs Approval:

1. **Approval to post a map of the Goshen Farm Trails on the Bulletin Board.**

New Business:

1. New Arrival 'Baby Jones' to Marcus Jones and Alexandra Mikhlin.
2. Jen and Ben Reynolds due date is May 12, not heard anything yet?
3. If we had a large dumpster at the Farm, gardeners and I could start to clean up trash in the wood (area south of the Caretakers Cottage) as part of their Sharing Hours. I believe we would not be charged until the dumpster was picked up for disposal. I will check into the cost of this suggestion and when actual payment is due.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

May 16, 2012

Submitted by Becky Benner

(May 13, 2012)

MEMBER TOTALS

The totals to date (May 13, 2012) include:

- Members who either joined or renewed since April 15th and whose memberships thus expire December 31, 2012.

Residents

Resident Individuals = 15

Resident Household = 60

Includes

0 renewals

5 new individual members

4 new household members

Total = 75 resident members

Non-Residents

Non-resident Individual = 8

Non-resident Household = 17

Includes

0 renewals

1 new individual member

2 new household members

Total = 25 non-resident members

Grand Total

100 overall memberships

DISCREPANCIES

None – all resolved since April meeting.

TO DO ITEMS

Barbara provided folders containing Membership Forms (2012 Renewals, From Garden Shower, Previous Years)

- Request complete Membership Forms from:
 - Christy Folderauer (Barbara said she may still have)
 - Linda and Greg Young
- Compare original Forms with database listings to:
 - Ensure accuracy for future communications
 - Ensure accuracy before re-forwarding database to Communications Chair (John Maggio)

GFPS BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES MAY 2012

- Need to purchase and install gutters on main house. An email was sent to Jason Brown inquiring about his earlier offer to donate gutters, no response
- Windows look amazing!! thank you everyone!!!
- We got 35 gallons of exterior paint donated from Greg at Sherwin Williams, I can pick it up anytime.
- I agree with Roy's prepaint list and can schedule a work day to get those things done before or after Jason works on the roof
- I have placed a few calls into contacts to see if we can get some of the roofing materials donated or at a discounted rate.
- Started research on alternatives to a traditional restroom in the house. Pre-engineered facilities would not require an expensive septic system but be more aesthetically pleasing than a port-a-pot
- Would like to schedule work days for the remainder of the year, this will make it easier for me to commit and be available for them. after the paint work, roof, and painting, would be the interior demo. Are there any other ideas or thoughts

Garden

MEETINGS: Meetings are held at the Broadneck library from 7-9 the first Thursday of the month. All are welcome. A informal meet and greet picnic will be held Saturday June 16. Nothing will be supplied everyone is responsible for what they want and responsible for taking care of their trash.

RULES AND AGREEMENT:

Each plot renter is required to volunteer 6 hours for the year to work on the land other than their plot. There is a binder in the tool shed to document your time. There is also a list of suggested tasks that can be done to fulfill the volunteer time. If you have an idea for an unlisted task please get approval from Roy or Nicole before starting it.

PUBLICITY AND EVENTS:

Our next event will be a garden harvest party in late September or early October. Details for this event should be planned now to give us time to get funds, donations and other items ahead of time if needed.

Locations: farm with tents and tables, bring your own chair or blanket. CSC HS, CSC club house (cost?)

Date: mid September - early October other activities permitting

Food: pot-luck brought by attendants, donations from Trader Joes, Wegmans, Whole Food, Panera and others.

Supplies: We will need tables and chairs if it is held at the farm. we will need cutlery, cups, plates, napkins, beverages, porta potty. I have 3 10x20 tents and 4 4x6 tables

Ideas: attendants not bringing a dish will pay \$5 pp. Admission will be shown by wearing name tags or bands.

MARKETING: The blog and Facebook page are always in need of updating with photos and stories. Entries of experiences and positive thoughts are encouraged.

we need a smaller sign 4 feet wide with the GFPS website on it laminated to put under the banner. Rose-Mary has a contact that can make the sign.

TOOLS AND SHED: Please remember to roll the numbers every time and lock up behind.

There are 26 bins for storage and portability.

WATER: A sample of the water from the garden is being take to get tested for potability, please do not drink it or water your pets or children from it until we get results.

We will need to supplement this with rain barrels. We need to get gutters on the main house and platforms for the barrels to be raised up. I have a contact that is getting new gutters, we can use his old ones on the house to harvest rainwater. My 3 rain barrel system needs to be fixed to hold any water.

The well is working and we have water in the garden! The well is old and we must take care of it and use are supply wisely. Please be conscious of your water use. Sprinklers will not be allowed, please make sure water is not left running.

GENERAL:

Roy has scoped out 3 potential areas for garden expansion. We currently have a 15 person waiting list and others are interested in more plots. This would continue the gfps mission in a positive direction and make great use of the land currently covered in invasive vines.

Interest has been expressed in selling some produce from the plots. Details on needing a sales license and taxes etc will be discussed with the gfps. Commitment from people(s) will need to be met to organize and run the stand before fruition of this great idea. If there is excess of produce we encourage you to donate it to the VFD, neighbors, or fellow plot renters. Place the veggies up for grabs in a bin in the shed or on the table at the entrance.

Irene McElwee from foodlink maryland contacted me and wants anyone interested in donating their produce to let her know. They have an organized weekly produce giveaway on Fridays at the Riva Road Farmers Market. If you are interested please let me know.

We are looking for 1 or 2 picnic tables for the farm.

Soil tests will be sent to UMASS for evaluation, results will be shared when they arrive.

Artifact bags for each plot renter and artifact collection bin to be kept in container. If anything significant is found please put it in a bag with the plot number and date

Get dirty eat fresh T-shirts are on sale for \$15. Any money made on the sale of these will go to the garden.

Thank you for your continued interest and support in creating the garden. If anyone has an interest in taking on any positions please let me know.

THANK YOU!

Communications Chair

Newsletter - The 1st Quarter Newsletter was sent with success.

- I recommend more frequent newsletters, 1 per month, or as we have items to discuss. (raffle, event, happenings, progress on the property, general blog posts etc...). In addition we can have a link on the newsletter to invite members to read the posted meeting minutes online in some form and allow all members to read them from the future website. Also the newsletter should have a "needed" list containing all the items or volunteer duties needed.

Facebook - Regular updates have been posted to the Goshen Group and the Garden Page. Mostly progress pictures of the garden.

- I propose to continue to use the Group and Page as is for now, but possibly convert the Garden Page to the Official Goshen Farm Fan Page at a later day possibly after the garden season.

Website - examples of previous web designs utilizing Wordpress have been presented to the board and approved. A new website will be in the works and hopefully completed in the next 30-60 days.

Online Membership Registration - Karen Bailey, Rebecca Benner, Barbara Morgan and I had a small meeting on 5/10/12 to discuss streamlining membership registration via the website. Both the Garden Registration and General Registration forms were presented so that it was known what information was needed to complete a registration.

- I propose that next season when a "garden member" registers that his/her registration fee includes an automatic family membership and that 1 form is used for both regular memberships and garden memberships.

- I propose to do away with the "individual membership" and "family membership" and only have one price point of \$35.00. This will cut down on accounting issues, membership chair issues, and insurance concerns. A majority of the current members are already at the \$35/yr level.

Kayak Raffle - The kayaks have been secured, the posters printed, and the tickets are ready. As part of our agreement with the Ski Haus, 1 Ski Haus flyer must be given to each raffle customer. We currently have a small number of Ski Haus flyers, but I will have many more in the coming week.

- In order to prevent accounting issues I propose that all tickets be sold at the \$5 price point regardless of quantity. I personally will be selling them in lots of 4 tickets in order to get rid of as many as possible as quickly as possible.

- I propose that we try to set up some sort of mailing order situation whereas the person buys the tickets online via the website or can arrange for tickets over the phone and have a paypal invoice emailed to them for the amount due. I can set up an email account specifically for ticket sales and I can offer to use my phone number to secure phone orders.

General #1 - I have met with Lisa Jacobs who currently works for AACC and raises money as a profession and who is also involved and sits on the board of other non profits. She is very knowledgeable pertaining to grants and fundraising. I propose that The Goshen Farm Preservation Society approach her and offer her "employment" to assist in raising funds towards our goals. I have approached her with the idea and she was interested in viewing the particulars of our grant. I propose some sort of commission based fund raising agreement be set up with her or another professional in order to raise the funds needed to match the current grant. I propose a 20% commission with a goal of what is needed to achieve our grant requirements. I have briefly spoke with Barbara Morgan, Rebecca Benner, and Karen Bailey about this matter.

General #2 - There is a major blind spot at the end of the driveway. It would be a good idea to have low lying branches removed so that members can see oncoming traffic coming from the direction of Graul's Market (on the left as you are leaving the driveway).