

# GROUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT

February 15, 2012

Submitted by Roy Benner, Chairman, 02/12/2012 to Barbara Morgan

## **Accomplished tasks:**

Built and installed a new two- sided bulletin board roofed with shingles at the Sharing Garden location with holders for both GFPS Annual Membership Forms (Application) and for Sharing Garden Applications (for Plots).

- 1) Received a donation of about 500 bricks from Ana Lockett of The Landscape Design Center located in Edgewater. This amounts to about 93 square feet of surface area.
- 2) Purchased a Combination Lock for the 1420 - Main GFPS Gate. Not yet installed at gate.
- 3) Spoke on-site with Andy Brown (a well person) about the water well, 2/11/12.

## **Needs Accomplishing:**

1. Need to have the Gravely Mower Serviced (electrical problem - will not run) to be ready for early spring cutting. Left front tire has a leak, I will repair the tire.
2. Install rest of the wooden fence pickets on the south end of the "Goshen Farm Sharing Garden," when pickets become available.
3. Get the well pump working.
4. Install water line to Farm House and Sharing Garden for installation of several frost-free hose bibs within the Garden.
5. Install electric GFCI Outlet line in the Garden and on the exterior wall of the Farm House for exterior electrical use.
6. Large tree near the servant's building, Site #8, should be removed. Removal also of another large vine-covered tree located to the southwest end of the Garden. Both should be removed for safety reasons.
7. Lots of small Tree of Heaven stumps to be removed in the front and north side areas of the Farm House yard.
8. Have spoken with two locksmiths on best approach to locking main entrance gate but still allowing access to Sharing Garden plot gardeners. Decided on the Combination Lock (simpler and less expensive) as opposed to the key style lock (requiring lots of individual keys).
9. Clean spring area, Site #6, of debris during cold weather, preferably when the pond is frozen.

## **Needs Approval:**

1. Move marker #8 several feet northwest out of very narrow pathway to allow better access for walking, grass cutting, and water and electric installation from the well to the Farm House and the Sharing Garden.
2. Ana Lockett of The Landscaping Design Center (established in 1979) of Edgewater, Maryland, is considering a House Garden Plan for GFPS (Donation). I met Ana Lockett while she was walking her two pups at Goshen Farm (she lives in Walnut Ridge). We met January 19<sup>th</sup> at the Farm. She is working on how best to approach our design and what they can provide us, as a donation.  
See their website – [www.thelandscapedesigncenter.com](http://www.thelandscapedesigncenter.com)  
(See recently donated 93 square feet of bricks or about 500 bricks) note above.

## **New Business:**

**A. Well: (Based on discussions with Andy Brown of Brown's Well Pump & Trenching Service {Licensed, Bonded and Insured})**

1. First, the well needs to be re-developed and testing to determine if it is still viable.
2. He would charge GFPS \$600 for this re-developing and testing process.
  - a. **\*\*It includes: repairing the damage done when the well pump and pit less adaptor were incorrectly removed. (It looks like this operation was pried off rather than properly extracted).**
  - b. Pressure-testing the well to make sure it is sound and functioning (Important!).
  - c. Repairing the broken casing.
  - d. Proving the depth.
  - e. Determining the static depth.
  - f. Determining the pumping rate and recharge.
  - g. (I hope this is a fair representation of the process described to me (Roy Benner) 2/11/12.
  - h. If the well fails, then he would reduce his charge to \$500 and not repair the well since it is not worth developing or repairable.
3. If the well did not prove viable, a rough estimate for drilling a new well would probably be around \$6,000. He is not a well driller, so this is only his best guess given to me.
4. If the well proves worthwhile (viable), then he would give us an estimate for installing a new pump (approximately \$700 – he would not recommend using the 24 year old (*less than reliable manufacturing brand*) pump, new wiring for the pump (approximately \$1.35 per foot), new piping within the well (approximately \$0.85 per foot), putting a new bug-proof cap on the well to replace the 1988 model, then: trenching, piping, wiring, providing an excellent reconditioned pressure tank, pressure switches, etc. to bring the water from the well to the Farm House basement. He said he would work with us to provide a good system while trying to save the Society money wherever he could (like providing a used pressure tank). He would create a new trench from the well basically along the existing pathway to behind the house and then swing east toward the basement, where he would install the new pressure tanks and pressure switches and other mechanisms to make a working water system. This system would require 120 volts at the basement.
5. He would also develop an estimate for providing water to and throughout the garden to provide four (4) frost-free hose hydrants (bibs), placed according to the Garden design. He would also provide at no cost a small pressure tank in the Garden which would help provide adequate pressure to all the hoses within the Garden.
6. With the above estimate he would install a valved tee and other plumbing items as an option which could provide water to the Caretaker's Cottage at a future date if that is desired.
7. He explained the old "Well Pit" located under the trees to the north of the house and south of the existing well is an old well. If we dug down, we would probably find a three (3) inch metal well pipe from the old abandoned former well. **His recommendation is to fill the old well pit in with dirt, so no one fall into it, gets hurt or sue the GFPS. The old remaining equipment in the pit is not of any value or use!**

**B. When clean-up or Community Service happens:**

1. There is a lot of trash that I and others have placed beside the Storage Unit that needs removal (Trash bags will be required).
2. Old cardboard stacked on the foundation near the Sharing Garden.
3. Lots of tree branches around the Farm House site, some recently cut to clean up vines, suckers removed from the base of several surrounding trees in the vicinity of the Farm House side yard, and electrical installation debris around the storage unit.

# **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT**

February 15, 2012

Submitted by Becky Benner

(February 12, 2012)

## **MEMBER TOTALS**

The totals to date (February 12, 2012) include:

- Members who either joined or renewed since January 18<sup>th</sup> and whose memberships thus expire December 31, 2012

### **Residents**

Resident Individuals = 6

Resident Household = 30

Includes

5 renewals

1 new household member

### **Non-Residents**

Non-resident Individual = 4

Non-resident Household = 6

Includes

1 new household member

### **Grand Total**

46 overall memberships

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT LETTERS**

Acknowledgement letters for

- Individual
- Household
- Individual / donor

- Household / donor

were finally mailed to new and renewing members.

Many thanks to Nicole Neboshynsky for providing graphics for the letterhead and the return address labels!

## **REMINDER RENEWAL LETTERS**

Reminder letters were sent to members from 2011 who had not renewed. The letters (26 total letters) included the GFPS Annual Membership Form necessary to capture member information, to promote renewed interest in volunteering, and to provide the membership fee. (Sample reminder letter attached.)

Also enclosed with the Annual Membership Form was a Goshen Farm Sharing Garden flyer advertising the Garden Shower to be held March 31<sup>st</sup>. (Sample flyer [front and back] attached.) If anyone wants to participate in the Sharing Garden, s/he must be a member of the GFPS. The Wish List (back of the flyer) states that to be able to rent a plot, one must be a member of the GFPS.

Another incentive to become a member!

## **February Building Committee Report**

The building committee recommended against completing demo of the Main house due to lead paint and the hazards the workers will be subject too, as well as the potential for future lawsuits do to said hazards.

As of 2/9/2012 Patty will be taking the lead certification course and will be able to take on the task of organizing and recordkeeping for the EPA Lead Law.

Instructions for the work day on 2/18/2012 will be sent out NLT 2/12/2012 for the volunteers to work on giving the house more curb appeal. This will create a happier welcome to visitors and those interested in our efforts.

Nick from Improvement Zone has contacted GY Plumbing to discuss the what needs to be completed for the well. Greg said that he will get up there to take a look. I have a follow up call scheduled with him 2/10/2012.

The plumbing to the well should be the next item that the Goshen Farm tackles. Interest in the garden is growing and it will quickly lose interest if there is no water. This is a great revenue and awareness builder for the GFPS.

Trenching for the well, resetting of the well pump, and setting well pipe can happen at any date. The weather has been warm enough that there is no frost.

I would recommend running a main line from the well head to the basement of the main house. Install a pressure tank in the main house and then run well pipe back to the farm and cottage with shut off and drain valves in the main house. A manifold at the farm will allow multiple gardeners to use the water at the same time, but pressure may be lowered by multiple users.

Trenching through tree roots needs to be considered. If we cut a trench through a trees root system we may weaken the tree enough that in the Spring, with saturated soil, or summer thunderstorms, the tree may lean or fall. A trees root system normally extends out as far as its canopy. Leave enough room around the larger trees to ensure we do not kill the tree or have it cut down if it poses a threat of its health is already compromised.