

Present: Norma, Lois, Gordon, Mark, Martha, Henry, Dean, Sheila

1. Approval of agenda

2. Reports

- a. News from FHNA strategic planning meeting (Mark)
 - Kevin and Diane have resigned.
 - June for dumpster day.
 - Some board members expressed interest in giving the garden their excess compost. It was decided this could be accommodated on a case-by-case basis. This could be especially useful for ornamental gardens (eg pollinator garden). Garden committee members can facilitate contact between compost providers and those responsible for the ornamental gardens.

3. Discussions

- a. Mentoring program –draft blurb approved for inclusion in March mailing;
- b. March mailout meeting – Friday, March 13, 6:30 PM; Members who committed to help: Martha, Mark, Dean, Lois, Norma, Sheila, and perhaps Gordon. Sheila will make address labels; Norma will bring return labels and envelopes; Lois will bring stamps (we have 131 addresses to send to, although some of those will not receive an invitation back – so let's say 125). Mark will print enclosures. New deadline for return of contracts - April 2nd.
- c. Should gardeners who failed to keep up their plots be invited back? – No.
- d. Spring New Gardener Orientation

Progress report and discussion:

- i. Enclosure will be prepared for spring mail-out. It will stipulate the orientation will occur in mid-may and for gardeners to look for information on the facebook page. Sheila will also send an e-mail announcement.
- ii. - Information to be communicated to gardeners has been collated (see attached).
 - Please review and get back with changes.
 - Gordon (who volunteered to talk about weed control and soil health) suggested by e-mail followup that a more in-depth workshop later in the season would be better.
 - I (Sheila) have written up a short summary of advice to include with the rest of the info (attached) since we will have a captive audience;
 - I believe a short demo (compost turning in; row covers) could be done in coordination with Martha;
 - Marths has volunteered to show gardeners how to do a soil test and provide flyers from MSU extension;
- iii. Since Gordon has suggested a dedicated workshop on the very broad topic of soil, plant health, we will provide sign up sheets so people can indicated their interest in this (and other) topics.
- iv. Greg is aware of the even and will work up his topic (compost) separately.
- v. Refreshments – hopefully we will have some

4. New business

Norma has agreed to sign up for the GRapids irrigation Economy plan.