

Present Mark, Dean, Gordon, Lois, Diane, Norma

1. Approval of agenda

2. Reports

- a. Shay has plowed twice, will keep track of the number of times, and will bill us at the end of the season

3. Discussions

- a. Mentoring program
 - Informal program identifying experienced gardeners willing to provide help and advice to novices is taking shape. We need someone to write a description to send out with the Spring mailing scheduled for early March.

- b. Spring New Gardener Orientation

Dean is polishing a great welcoming/overview speech.

The following topics were identified as needing development along with the volunteer who agreed to work them up.

Volunteerism - Sheila

Composting - Greg

Watering - Lois

Etiquette – Mark

Weed control, soil health – Gordon

We should consider how we are going to run this. To have the group break into smaller groups (say of 5-10 people) that circulate through all these topics might be unworkable, since each topic leader might require 5-10 minutes over their topic. With transitions, this might all-in-all take over an hour, and, like mini-golf, some groups might get backed up. Perhaps we could break into just a couple of groups that go on a tour, with the tour leader addressing many of the topics while they walk??? Perhaps only composting and weed control/soil health need to be a “station” – all the other topics can be covered by the tour leader more or less as they tour the garden.

FOR NEXT MEETING, could each of you who has volunteered to develop one of these topics come with a first draft of what you think ought to be covered?

In addition, we could have Jan Schuitema offer plants for sale, and a refreshment table.

We will try to record the event and put it on our website

Timing – potentially once on each of two consecutive weekends in late April (once on a Saturday, once a Sunday). Generally thought we should have one of those dates to follow the plowing/marking plots.

- c. Front Gate/access issues with Shay etc. – Shay’s need to open the gate in order to plow our snow was seen as legitimate and the garden committee wishes to leave the present system (where Shay can open the west gate) in place.
- d. First stab at committee rules (see attached) – agreed that first stab looks good but that further discussion requires deliberation. Further discussion by e-mail.

4. New business - Mark and Diane mentioned that the FHNA is requesting meeting dates (first Monday of every month at 7:00 PM), important dates (depends on weather), budget (plot rental fees will be unchanged and expect expenditures and income to be about the same as last year, barring unforeseen circumstances).