

**MG Educational Gardens at Greenbank Farm
Steering Committee Minutes
January 6, 2021, held via Zoom**

We were delighted to welcome John Bachert to the meeting and look forward to seeing him at the gardens again soon!

Next week we go back to the gardens, depending on weather. Some decorations need to be taken down and branches picked up.

Pie Shoppe Garden

- Katie reported that a new apple tree was donated and planted in the garden. If the transplant works well, we might get apples this fall. Thanks to Jim, Barbara, Gretchen, and Carolyn for their help.
- Katie will send Ilze some photos to post on website.
- Gary reminded us that there is a whole section on fruit trees in our MG training materials and what pollinators work best.

Shade Garden

- Hellebores might benefit from cutting back this time of year.
- Gary and Judy will check on what else needs to be done.

Native Garden

- Jim plans to expand the prairie area across the walkway towards the horsetail area and the street.
- Native garden is all trimmed back and ready for spring, per Jim.

Pond Garden

- Carolyn reported that the Greenbank management team plans to clean out the pond again this year. Carolyn will talk to them about things that need to be done, especially that the sides are collapsing. Most of the rocks that were on the side have now slid into the pond; maybe they can be recovered.

Rose Garden

- Pruning will start in a few weeks.
- Carolyn recommends winter blooming heather for the rose garden, to provide some color.
- John has a winter-blooming camellia that really stands out in the winter, so he recommends considering it for winter color.

Cottage Garden

- Looks good; we are not aware of any specific needs there for now.

Greenhouse

- Greenhouse is ready for winter seed planting.
- Barb is working on watering methods.
- Barb has been talking to Anza about a potential presentation. If Anza does not work out, Barb will talk to Dave Thomas.

Website

- Ilze showed the new gardens resource page on the website.
- Per suggestions, Ilze will add links to Prairie area, worm bins, and greenhouse

Signage

- Ilze committed to some signage updates (as an experiment for dealing with the humidity effects on the printed flyers in the alcove: (1) add QR code to flyers, which includes website page to which the code links; (2) laminate at least 5 flyers per garden, with instructions to return them when done; (3) install realtor style boxes at garden exits so people can put their laminated flyers there.
- Jim suggested we also put QR code with link to donation page on the flyers.
- Katie and Barb S will provide updated verbiage for Pie Shoppe Garden.

Other Items

- **Wood chips.** John has literally a ton or two of wood chip mulch that has been delivered by arborist. He can share it if anyone needs it for their gardens, but they will need to pick it up via their own truck.
- **Table refinishing** is proceeding; several people are working on them (Annette, Gary, Steve), with the intent to have them done and returned to the gardens by spring.
- **Intern project.** Loren reported that the intern project has not gotten off the ground. He hopes to get the 2021 and 2020 classes to work on it together this year. Jim said the pop-up sales garden idea is probably not needed as part of this project.
- **Richard Tamura** sends his regards to everyone (via Katie) and looks forward to seeing everyone in the gardens in the spring.
- **Thank you** to Barb D. and Nancy for holiday decoration! Thank you to Judy for the moss that she put in the entryway, which looks great!
- **Plant Sale.** We need a better connection between the gardens and the Plant Sale chair. Katie suggested we invite Liz to the Steering Committee Meetings – just to come at the start, discuss any updates and plant sale matters, so that she can stay connected to what is going on in the gardens.
- **The Mound.** Barb pointed out that we do not need the mound for extra planting area, as there is already lots of space that Barb has

