

Meeting held at Duryea Presbyterian Church

Attendees

Traci Nottingham (took notes)	David Pratt (BQLT)	Demetrice Mills (BQLT)
Virginia Webster	Laurie Kilpatrick	Maria Stasavage
Ruth Manning	Dorothy Mills (BQLT)	Ella Morganlander
Pia Micoli **	Lee Schere	Rosemary Palms
Alexandra Hayes	Frances Norwood	Patricia Slee
Elly Perkins	Jean Kahler	Jennifer Richman
Will Law	Carl Lawrence	Grace Nam
Melissa Atwood	Jessica Stein	Kayla Schwartz
Jamie McClelland	Silke Torras	Jon Pope (presiding)
Meredith Slopen	Lynn Armentrout	Mark Jaffe & Henry
Mara Gittleman	Irene van Slyke (BQLT)	**= new members

Announcements, Updates and Discussions:

Winter Meeting 2011 minutes ratified - unanimous

Announcements of recent events/ projects: Jon - The Roots Earth Day video shoot ended up being a Honda Hybrid commercial and because of that Jon successfully lobbied them for donation double their initial offer netting us \$1000. That brings our Treasury to about \$3200. Mara- re: Farming Concrete- there was a lot of food grown last season across the City; tallying will continue again this year and next year as well. More than \$200k worth of food grown in Community Gardens across the City was documented. Also GreenThumb which is funded under the federal Community Development Block Grant was threatened to be eliminated due to defunding. Federal money was restored however their future funding was cut and they are under 100% attrition meaning any staff departures will not be re-filled. Groups are seeking to diversify GT funding sources. Traci thanked everyone who helped make the Easter Egg Hunt a rousing success.

Upcoming Events:

Jon P. - The **Storytelling Event** at the garden by the Brooklyn Arts Council, will be June 2, 2011 from 7-9 pm. The **Rat Chat** will be scheduled when James G. returns from his honeymoon.

Virginia - **Plant Sale** Rosemary helped by picking up the plants for the Annual Plant Sale, May 8, 2011 from dawn to dusk. Yuki will be holding another plant sale soon to benefit Tsunami survivors. If you have extra plants or houseplants please donate them to her to sell.

Mara- A Container Gardening Workshop co-sponsored with WAPA will be today at 3 p.m. here in the garden.

Compost Update: Lynn -requested funding for a new compost sifter as the one we have has shredded apart.

Box Report: Ruth - 4 members from 2009, have been assigned boxes ; 3 box holders are sharing their box therefore 7 more garden members are planting in assigned boxes. If you are a box holder and wish to share or Summer Loan please let Ruth know and the next person on the Box Waiting List will be assigned. People who are sharing boxes are also now box holders and must fulfill their 18 hours of Open/Service hours to the garden to maintain their status of good standing.

Master Gardener Updates : Traci- Please refrain for putting pots & plants on benches since it leaves a dirty and/or muddy mess. Benches are for butts- not plants!

Brooklyn-Queens Land Trust: Jon P. introduction -Trust for Public Land comes to the aid of public/ open spaces that are in jeopardy of development; deeds specifically says that the land will be held in perpetuity as open space however TPL is interested in conveying our deed this year to a local land trust. (They were intending to hold community garden deeds temporarily (2 yrs); it has now been 10

years.) The Brooklyn -Queens land trust has been created and Demetrice Mills (president) Irene van Slyke, David Pratt and Dorothy Mills have come to explain the BQLT and answer any of our questions. Demetrice explained that BQLT currently consists of 29 gardens in Bklyn & 7 in Qns in various and diverse neighborhoods. BQLT was established after the 1999 land auctions & development threats by Mayor Giuliani. TPL organized local land trusts since they don't hold community gardens; BQLT has had to demonstrate their ability to function and thrive via holding regular meetings, etc. For all gardens, BQLT provides liability insurance (\$1300 /yr), water costs & permits (\$7000/yr), identifies sources of income & fundraises (through organizations & local politicians). The BQLT Board is elected by Garden Representatives at annual meetings. Member Gardens operate autonomously but can get assistance from BQLT if needed & requested. BQLT has made an effort to be more open to the members it serves by holding meetings open to all (and requests that PHCF host a BQLT Operations meeting later this summer). Demetrice also distributed the latest Annual Report (also sent to us via email) and apologized for any misunderstandings that may have occurred.

BQLT fundraises by annually requesting \$100 contribution from individual Board members and \$50 per garden. They also seek funding from local politicians.

Questions & *BQLT* Answers:

When are the deeds being conveyed? *Expected June/ July. BQLT has been meeting with the layers & hope to have it completed as soon as possible. If anything happens to BQLT our property would revert back to TPL.*

Regarding the Press Release claiming PHCF is a part of BQLT- why was that even published even though it wasn't discussed with PHCF membership? *The Press Release was only sent to other BQLT Gardens. The vote to accept PHCF as part of BQLT in the BQLT Annual meeting was only a procedural vote.*

It seems like we must join BQLT? *As per conversations with TPL, we would not be forced to join any land trust without our consent. Is the Board of BQLT still in-fighting? Are any of the Board Members still the same as several years ago? Only 2 Board Members are the same from 6 yrs ago. No, the Board is not fighting. The incident referred to was one Annual Meeting more than 4 yrs ago. BQLT is unified and diverse in leadership and while there may be differences of opinion members work together for the greater good despite any differences. BQLT is a Gardener- led organization and thus understand how gardens work. Meetings may run long because an effort is made to hear everyone's views and grievances.*

How many BQLT meetings must Garden Representatives attend? *There is no specific commitment. BQLT will still work on behalf of all member gardens.*

Do member Garden have to fundraisers on behalf of BQLT? *No, and any money you raise is for your garden.*

Does BQLT find having this many gardens somewhat unwieldy to manage, and do Queens gardens participate? *No it is not difficult to manage; Queens gardens do actually participate quite regularly and 2 additional garden are seeking to join the BQLT. In addition, there is benefit in being part of a large organization. BQLT can defend Gardens that are being encroached or be a liaison and representative to various entities (Community Boards, NYPD, etc.) on a Member Garden's behalf.*

Jon thanked the BQLT Board members for coming to answer our questions so that we can make an informed decision.

Additional Announcements: Jon P. - Traci has passed all her exams and is now a licensed and Registered Architect. Jean K. & Jessica R welcomed their new baby, named Graham; he is 10 wks old. James G. is currently on his honeymoon.

Next Meeting: April- May 21, 2011 11a.m. raindate 5/22/11 11a.m.

minutes taken & typed by Traci Nottingham, Secretary