

### Attendees

Virginia Webster	Brian L. Thompson	Maria Stasavage
Ruth Manning	Alexandra Hayes	Traci Nottingham (took notes)
Lindsay Haddix	Redelia Nottingham	Andrea Warmington
Jean Kahler	Kayla Schwarz	Jonathan Matz
Frances Norwood	Eva Wang	Cookie Thompson
Joey DeLeo	Will Law	Mark Jaffe
Jon Pope (presiding)	Silke Torras	
Rosemary Palms	Jessica Stein	**= new members
Valentine Douglas	Marva Wiltshire **	

### Announcements and Updates:

August Meeting 2011 minutes ratified - Aye nearly unanimous, 2 abstentions

**Land Trust Vote results:** Jon announced the results of the BQLT/ BANG land trust vote. The results were 29 BANG, 15 BQLT, 6 Abstentions. Currently TPL is transferring gardens that are going to BQLT. Garden transfers to BANG will happen later.

**Treasury Report:** Brian T.- Our current balance is \$4171 and we are still collecting annual dues.

Joey asked if we were using the sand bags for anything and if we could get rid of them.

**Master Gardener report:** Traci- The sandbags are to be used to fill in the depressed area where the mulberry stump was ground and for the sinkhole area between Val, Redelia, Jennifer R. & Ella's beds. We don't know why the area is sinking. Possible reasons include a natural sinkhole, an old septic tank with a broken lid, or an underground stream coming to surface & after doing research over the summer, investigative options were presented: Hire a company to "see" below the surface & tell us what's there before we dig (\$750-1000), rent an auger to bore a hole to see what's beneath (\$270), rent a narrow backhoe that fits our garden paths and dig (\$600-700) or get someone with a larger backhoe -6feet wide- to excavate (maybe free, but it wrecks our garden). We could dig by hand, but that could be dangerous if someone falls in. The other methods of investigation reduce that risk. Q & A: Could we just add the sand on top of it? *Yes, but if it's a septic tank or natural sinkhole, adding weight could collapse the area quicker.* If it's a septic tank would we have to remove it? *No, just fill it in with the sand.* Is it possible it's an oil tank? *(JonP) Probably not, in NYC they are usually in the building, not in the backyard/ outside.* Is it possible that we could find something that we don't want to know about, i.e. something toxic or dangerous? *(JonP) Probably not in this area. (It wasn't that industrial around here.)* Lindsay offered if it were something toxic, she is aware of grant funding for remediation efforts (up to \$35K.) if we needed it.

Other possible reasons offered from members included old building rubble creating voids and now sinking, an old cistern or an old rotting tree stump/roots already under the surface. Redelia also noted it's always wet back in that general area, all the way over to the dogwoods. Jon asked Traci to send info to the listserve for member contemplation. We would probably undertake this as a late Fall/ Winter project.

**General garden Cleanup:** Joey asked if we could get rid of the huge logs that were left after the mulberry was cut down (ditto for the cobblestones). Jon P. recalled that we were supposed to offer it on Craigslist for firewood last year and would see to that soon. Or he could take it over by work & get a special trash pickup from the refuse hauler. For the cobbles, Jon said the BOG committee was supposed to be using them. Further questions included the wood for the stage and the drip irrigation tubing. We generally discussed that we should be wary of taking in materials without specific intentions.

Brian asked if we could get rid of the concrete block that is strewn around the garden but esp. at the front gate.

Brian presented that a neighbor wishes to donate slate to the garden, and asked for members to volunteer to help bring it around from Prospect Pl. It is a 3-foot high pile of various sized pieces. Kayla questioned whether we voted to accept the slate or not and if it had a specific purpose in the garden, and expressed that she would prefer not to have more paving in the garden because it would absorb heat & then reradiate it back, making the garden hotter. She also preferred porous materials & plantings; besides it's hard to handle & move around by hand. Redelia agreed with both points adding that the purpose of our garden is to have more nature areas, not more urban areas. Brian then suggested we wait for the Back of Garden Committee to report to see if they have plans or intents for it.

**Upcoming Events:** 13th Annual Pumpkin Smash Potato Bake Bash date was set for November 5th , raindate (Nov. 6)

**Compost Update:** Val & Jessica S.- we are now getting compost contributions from Union Street (food co-op) which has a lot of fruit in it and makes the pile very watery. Val also reported that we have a new sifting stand arrangement, but nowhere to store the sifted compost. He suggested moving part of the Children's Bed to another location so that storage for compost and the associated cans & bins can go adjacent to the compost.

**Meeting Schedule:** Rosemary asked that we keep meetings on Saturday mornings. Jon replied that there are members that cannot come on Saturday mornings & there are those so we try to hold meetings on other days so that people in that situation can attend. Jon noted that if you are having difficulty making meetings due to work commitments, speak to the Governing Body/ Coordinator and make arrangements.

**Back of Garden:** Traci- To continue cleaning up our garden the next step is to move the lumber that is on the left side of the shed to the right side of the shed that has been cleared. We also need to repair the back wood fence. Jon said he will address it once Ruth gets the contact info for that homeowner to make arrangements.

**Homeless Visitor:** During Open Hours on Sept 11th Lynn & Ruth witnessed what appeared to be a homeless man come to the garden admire the plants but then proceeded to relieve himself by the right side of the shed, left his waste by the compost and then bathed by the water tanks. Jon reminded everyone that you can ask any person who is behaving in an unsanitary or unsafe manner to leave or if you feel your safety is threatened, to leave the garden yourself and call the Police. He is described as looking homeless, very tall and slender, 25-30 yrs old, Caucasian, with shoulder length dark hair. Rosemary suggested that at least 2 people always attend Open Hours & Jon agreed.

**Service Hours report:** Eva- The Open Hours Sign-in sheet and Service Hours Report as of 8/31 is being passed around (during the meeting), so please sign up! And if you think you are missing Service Hours from the Service Hours Report (found on our website [HERE](#)) contact your Project Coordinator to make sure your service hours are reported and if there is a discrepancy in Open Hours contact Eva.

**Next Meeting: Saturday October 22nd, 2011 11:00 a.m.** raindate 10/23/11 11a.m.

minutes taken & typed by Traci Nottingham, Secretary