

### Attendees

Alexandra Hayes	Rosemary Palms	Jeff Secor
Redelia Nottingham	Kayla Schwarz	Ruth Manning
Cookie Thompson	Roxanne Khamsi	Lisa Watkins
Valentine Douglas	Brian L. Thompson	Hans-Christoph Steiner **
Neil Richardson **	Elly Perkins	Frances Norwood
Joey DeLeo	Jessica Stein Patrick	
Jon Pope (presiding)	Eva Wang	**= new members
Catherine Orrok	Grace Nam	
Traci Nottingham (took notes)	Silke Torras	

### Announcements and Updates:

After our usual round robin of introductions, Jon announced that we are updated & registered with Green Thumb and that we must abide by their rules for Open Hours, which are keeping the garden open to the community 20 hours per week. In that effort, be sure to record your Open Hours on the calendar that is posted in the bulletin board. If you have any questions about Service Hours & Open hours, ask the Service hours Coordinators Brian & Eva. Jon also adds that registering with Green Thumb also allows us to get a free water permit in order to use the fire hydrant for water.

This Tuesday April 25 Councilmember Tish James will be holding a public hearing on Community based composting. All are encouraged to attend.

Traci announced that she along with Maria and Will have gone through all the meeting minutes and votes since 2009 and have updated the Rules and Bylaws. They are 98% done (re- review) and the results of the effort are currently posted on the Rules section website.

November 2011 & Winter 2012 Meeting minutes ratified - 15 Aye , 3 abstentions 0 nay

**Upcoming Events:** Plant Sale- Jon Announced on Virginia's behalf the Annual Plant Sale will be May 5& 7 and May 12 & 13. She should be putting out a call for volunteers for time slots, etc. Please communicate with Virginia directly if you wish to help at the sale.

**Treasury Report:** Brian T.- Our current balance is \$3417.16 (as per the March statement) + \$320 in dues totaling \$3737.16 . We have dues for 25 members already.

**Service Hours report:** Brian- The Open Hours Sign-in sheets for May through August are being passed around (during the meeting), so please sign up! Open hours slots/ shifts can be filled by 2 people. Service Hours can also be gained for work on Garden Projects. So far, garden members have logged 80 hours for the month of April. The Service Hours Report can found posted in the bulletin board and on our website [HERE](#) .

**Master Gardener report:** Catherine- the garden looks good we will need to finish pruning and we can do some today after the meeting. We also need to consider the probable drought that is coming. If the relatively dry weather continues as it has been lately, we will really need the water from the hydrant.

**Land Trust Rep (BANG-LT):** Kayla - BANG is moving along and though TPL said they were eager to transfer gardens, they now seem to be moving slowly. BANG will be having upcoming events & will let us know the schedule of activities. BANG does not yet have its own non-profit status; for the time being, it is fiscally sponsored by 6-15 Greenspace which is a non-profit. We are still a part of the greater gardening community.

**Box Report:** Ruth- there have been 6 box shifts and there are 2 remaining boxes to be assigned. Originally there were 37 members on the Box Waiting List, but it winnowed down to 8 members who would be eligible to get a box. Those members who did no hours last year were dropped from the waiting list altogether; those who did some hours were dropped to the bottom of the Waiting List.

**Updates:** Jon - we are updated with GreenBridge, green Thumb and we are entered into the Greenest Block in Brooklyn Contest. Judging for that will be June 15th - June 30th. Jon also noted that Akosua has volunteered to get the annual water permit for the garden and has the paperwork to do so. She will be down there this week to get it.

### **Discussions:**

**Signage-** Jon noted that we need signage for our standing meeting (3rd Saturday's of each month), for our open hours schedule and for the new Trash In/ Trash Out policy (2 signs). Brian volunteered to make them. Members asked where are the garbage cans; the recycling garbage cans (paper & metal/ glass) have been removed since it still had to be sorted. The remaining trash can has been moved to the back on the left side of the tool shed.

**Compost Update:** Jon on Jennie's behalf- There is a lot of rat activity in the neighborhood and they have come to the Compost area. The Compost team is cleaning up the area and will propose a new bin system later this summer. Park Slope Food Co-op will pick up the costs of the project. In the meantime we need to reset the rat traps in the bait stations. And since James G. now has a new baby, he probably won't be doing the his usual rat abatement. Lisa wanted to know just what it entails; Jon explained that it includes setting the rat traps, keep up with emptying them, etc. Jon suggested that a new Rat Abatement Committee be created to work on this problem and we all voted unanimously for it. Those interested in participating should contact Jon P. We should get ahead of this matter so that we don't get called on by others and fined by Dept of Health. DoH does deal with rats on a block or in a neighborhood as larger process, not just the problem of one-property.

**Back of Garden:** Jon on Liz N's behalf- General cleanup: Jon volunteered to take the broken concrete block & other rubble . He has a use for it. Dumpster options include using a dumpster at Jon's work 10 cu yd size for \$480, paying \$75 for a 1.5 cu yd dumpster (we would have to load up Trevor's pick-up truck on a Wed. evening to drop the load off by Jon's workplace). Ruth spoke of another option - using the NYC Waste transfer station for free in Bklyn & Qns. Kayla will investigate Dept of Sanitation about mixed debris drop offs.

Material donations: Jon has access to several items that we may find of use: a pallet of composted chicken manure (which is great for nitrogen) We all questioned the smell, so Jon will do a sniff test before bringing it all. We also figured we could share with another garden or others if a pallet is too much for us to use. Also available are Cacao husks (chocolate bean shells) . they can be used for compost & pathways. Jon will bring a sack for our review to see if we want more.

**Next Meeting: Saturday May 19th, 2012 11:00 a.m.** raindate 5/20/12 11a.m.

minutes taken & typed by Traci Nottingham, Secretary