

Prospect Heights Community Farm
General meeting
Sunday, July 21, 2013
10:15-11:25 am

Attendance

Jeff Secor. Presiding
Jean Kahler, minutes
Joey DeLeo
Jennie Spector
Traci Nottingham
Ben Horner
Jessica Stein
Valentine Douglas
Alex Hayes
Neil Richardson
Grace Nam
Martha Elliot
Eva Wang
Ted De Barbieri
James Goldstein
Lisa Watkins
Cookie Thompson

Minutes Ratification

Motion to ratify minutes from June 2013 meeting.

9 yea, 0 nay, 1 abstain

Motion passes.

Treasury Report

Current balance \$2993.54
Petty cash \$292.50

\$750 check to tree company not yet subtracted from balance.

Compost Report

Now that tree stump is ground, we are ready to move things around in compost area. Still determining configuration. Bins will stay in place. Leaf bin, sifting area, etc., will move into place vacated by tree

Compost otherwise looking good.

Need to deal with brush problem. People need to cut brush and weeds from garden to a maximum of six inches in length.

There is a suggestion for brush management as part of compost crew's job, but they do not want to take this on. Suggestion for better signage about brush expectations.

Box coordinator

Joey says everything is moving along fine. Approximately 10-12 on waiting list. New back of garden plan may include additional boxes

Traci:

Next Saturday 7/27 12-4

NYC street games day for kids and grown-ups

Skully, red light/green light, treasure hunt

Need volunteers to cook, coordinate games, advertise, etc.

see Traci to help out

Service hours

Eva

June 85.5 hrs, 22 open hrs unfilled, 4 due to rain, does not include hrs helping with the tree removal

Eva has individual tallies

Back of garden ideas

presented by Eva, Jeff, Traci

Group met last Sunday to brainstorm

Must include wheelbarrow storage, brush pile or piles

Both could be stored under evergreens in front of garden.

Two printed plans submitted to meeting

Plan 1 (printed in grey)

Gives compost 400 sq feet, includes existing bins and 4 new bins for sifting, brush, finished compost, leaf storage.

New pear tree to immediate west of compost, near new berry area (which is against fence). Can pollinate with pear tree in Ruth's backyard. Curved area to prevent damage to roots. Defined border tbd. Pear tree grows 2-3 ft per year to ultimate height of 40feet, though there is a move to care for it in a more orchard-style, which may slow growth a bit.

To west, L-shaped communal box, potentially cold Frame area for winter, plant sale starts, etc. Existing new beds and all existing beds bordering this area remain In

place. Digging bed may move slightly but will remain. Seating area under dogwood tree.

Shed, hydrangea, etc. remain in place. Tiered lumber storage area behind shed.

Plan 2 (white background as printed for meeting)

Compost same as plan 1.

Pear tree joined by TBA fruit tree. Berries along fence

To west, open "patio" area for group meetings

To west, communal harvest greenhouse, like the one at old stone house garden. Materials TBA. In approximate location shed.

Shed moves to west, in location of current spice bush, etc. shed rotates 90 degrees. Could get smaller shed, store some of current shed things in greenhouse. Leave some of hydrangea in place. Cold frame and lumber storage against back fence near shed.

Would require moving concrete slab beneath shed. Eight to nine inches deep, approximately 2000 lbs, says James g.

Square boxes south of compost become slightly larger.

Two plans are essentially the same for compost and pear tree. Those phases could begin quickly.

Phase A compost

Phase B fruit tree area

Considerations if two fruit trees:

Is there space?

Need to choose something that doesn't increase likelihood of disease to pear tree. Could tree area include raised beds, potentially narrow ones to discourage stepping directly under tree. Communal beds with set expiration date as trees become larger, produce more shade, need more root protection area

Moving forward: compost will move forward. another small group meeting to respond to these notes before August meeting, vote at August meeting.

Other Notes

Cookie asks that people not take her produce without asking her. Squash and cucumbers taken this week. Taking produce without permission from an individual bed is clearly against the garden rules.

Could we label communal beds clearly? Could we have a sign making the policy clear to garden visitors? Jeff will ask Brian.

Next meeting

Sunday, August 18, 10 am in the garden

Rain date Sunday, August 25, 10am