

Kendal at Oberlin Horticulture Committee Meeting

Corrected Minutes, Monday, February 1, 2016

Members Present: Jane Cheek, Fran Cooper, Nancy Hultquist, Heidi Leen, Pam Lenz, Ed Long, Nina Love, Joe Luciano, Amy Mitch, Frank Mitch, Marilyn Myerson, Melissa Reed, Don Reeves, Ann Slosser, Joy Walworth, May Zitani, and Vera Cooke

Matt Hannon from Grounds also was present.

The meeting was opened by Melissa at 10 AM in the Art Studio Room with a few moments of silence devoted to the passing of our member, Adie Orcutt. We particularly remembered her enthusiasm for growing of wild flowers and her ability to imitate the call of the Eastern Bluebird.

There was one correction to the minutes of the January meeting. Marilyn Myerson asked to have the sentence " She considered converting it to a perennial garden" removed from the Butterfly Garden section because it is already a perennial garden. The corrected minutes were approved and will be sent to the web-master.

Committee and subcommittee changes: (a) Treasurer. Joe Luciano agreed to take over the job as treasurer of the Horticulture Committee from Nina Love. All members present agreed to accept this transfer of duties. We thanked Nina for her many years of service. (b) Plant Care: Ann Slosser agreed to take over the job as chair of the subcommittee from May Zitani. There were no objections.

Treasurer's Report: Joe Luciano. The Northwest bank statement shows that we have a balance of \$3,893.33. Beyond that details are yet to be determined. Joe requested that everybody, who wishes to be reimbursed for expenses, fill out the required form, obtainable in the library, next to copy machine or from Joe or Melissa. Also, when charging the horticulture committee for Xeroxing in the library, please add your name to the little slip of paper.

Revising the horticulture guidelines in the Residents Handbook: The draft of the guidelines that were distributed with the meeting agenda are a summary by Melissa of a meeting between herself and Matt Hannon, at which they went over the old guidelines. The exact distance that cottage gardens may extend from the cottages (3 feet or 5 feet) still needs to be decided. The section: *Planting in and Next to Walkway Pebble Strips* will probably mention that they will be kept free of vegetation by Grounds with spraying unless residents notify Grounds that they wish to maintain the strips themselves. In that case Grounds will mark all the posts in the residents' area with white tapes. Probably also, a paragraph that residents should water trees during periods of drought, will again be included, but with a request to get specific instructions before doing so. Matt said that during the past year they started a new system. When a new tree is planted, a perforated pipe is placed vertically next to the root ball. Also the pipe serves as a diagnostic tool by checking the moisture at the root ball level. Water can then be poured into the pipe and it will reach the root ball. The tree will not send roots to the surface where they will be more affected by lack of water. Melissa is still open to suggestions and comments regarding the guidelines.

Proposed planting plan for cottage 47. Melissa reported that it had been rejected by Grounds. The trees and shrubs selected would grow too tall and too wide. The area remaining for the mowing had a bottleneck that would result in ruts left by mowers. Also, the resident did not want to be responsible for upkeep.

Matt Hannon – report on horticultures aspects of the grounds. (a) Matt hopes to apply principles of permaculture, (... "simulating or directly utilizing the patterns and features observed in natural ecosystems"). Thus, in the cottages 113-116 area, we have a transition to wildflowers theme and the Rock Pond-Triangle Pond area it would be considered a prairie

pond theme, others might be a wetland forest, an open meadow or a riparian transition theme. (b) Matt wanted permission to bring in some more rocks into the garden outside the horticulture room. Melissa requested that he talk to Don Parker, who had laid out the plans for that area.

Q&A: Marilyn Myerson requested that pebble strips in her area be maintained better. Matt said that he expected this to be the case this year because Olivia, a full time employee, had been given this specific responsibility. Ann Slosser expressed concern as to the effect of weathering on the table outside of the horticulture room. Don Reeves said that he had given it 4 coats of polyurethane which should provide good protection for a number of years.

Farmers Pond. A meeting had taken place on Thursday, January 28, attended by residents directly affected by its restoration and Matt Dilley's *Mad Scientist Associates*. A detailed birds eye picture visualization was distributed (scanned in version is attached). The two structures on the west side, i.e. the scenic bridge crossing and the fishing dock were decided against because of financial reasons. Don Reeves cautioned that enough attention be paid to get the proper depth to control vegetation. It had been miscalculated in the design of Heiser Pond restoration. Melissa mentioned the delicate balance that needs to be found: if the shoreline slope is very steep, muskrats like to burrow into it, creating tunnels that drain the pond – if it is gradual and shallow, plant growth takes over. The islands are created to accommodate the dredged soil. It would be very expensive to haul it away. Also, there had been one island before in Farmers Pond. Jane Cheek expressed concern with the statement "Opening in vegetation" in the vicinity of the Troll Bridge. She liked the way it looked now, including the dead trees. On the other hand, others had expressed a desire to have the dead trees removed. Ryan will present plans to the community at the next Barbara Thomas exchange on February 29th. Work is expected to start at the end of the summer, during the comparatively dry period.

Announcements: (1) If you want to start plants from seeds in the horticulture room, let Melissa know – so far Don Reeves and Fran Cooper expressed interest. (2) A class will be offered in Oberlin on 3/31 and 4/1 by the Tree Commission Academy of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Urban Forestry. An application form is attached. Matt will attend. (3) On April 23rd, Professor Jim Chatfield of the Ohio State University Extension will speak in the morning. In the afternoon he will lead a walk-about of the Kendal grounds.

Other: Nancy Gage's decorative panel has been found and installed in the horticulture room. Ann Slosser says thank you.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 7th, at 9:30 AM (instead of 10 AM because a Lifelong Learning Class is scheduled for 10:30 in the auditorium) in the Art Studio Room.

The meeting closed at 11 AM.

Respectfully submitted

Vera E. Cooke, secretary.