

Oxford Agricultural Commission

April 21, 2015 Minutes

Roll Call: Ed Belinsky, Bob Owsiany, Beth Williams, Mary Duford

Audience: Neil Gillet, Amy Cote

Old Business:

Garden Project :

The revised design was reviewed. The areas was organized with the raised beds on the front portion of the court and the rear portion will be reserved for compost, pavilion, greenhouse, chicken coop, and storage shed.

The goal is to get the infrastructure setup and turn it over to the care of the school.

Concerns from the BOE

- \$25k will be provided by a grant to setup the initial cost

- Questions about ongoing cost was discussed and it was assured that there is no room in the budget from the town or the BOE. The OAC assured Ms. Cote that there would be no cost to the school.

- Addition of the garden to the existing curriculum was discussed. The OAC feels that the new Common Core Standard to science will nicely allow room for this project to be incorporated.

- They are against the chicken coop with the fact that it is against state regulation. Ms. Cote will send this regulation to Bob.

- Who will be entering the garden during school hours? There has been past occurrences of people accessing the school which

- Cost of water is an addition cost. Bob recommended that Ms. Cote should speak to Mr. Barlow since the waterline is coming from an older well system. The water and electric line shown on the plan is outdated and doesn't exist anymore.

- Increased communication between the OAC and BOE was discussed and

- The BOE requested a copy of the grants to determine if there is any stipulations that would have to be accomplished the school. The OAC told Ms. Cote that the two grants from the Matties Fund and the State of Connecticut with no stipulations.

Stipulations from the BOE

1. No startup or ongoing costs
2. How will this garden a line with the existing curriculum?

3. How will it align with Common Core? And state mandated
4. When will the work get done?
5. What grades will be involved?
6. Will it be locked? Who has access? Be sure there is no security issues
7. Who is coordinating the harvest? Park and Rec?
8. Who is responsible for the upkeep the garden and when will it be cared for?
9. What is going to be planted?
10. Where is the soil coming from? Park and Rec have raised interest in the soil.
11. Who is committing to help and what organizations?
12. Is there a list of where everything is being donated from and what is going to be purchased on what grant.
13. When the school is closed how will it be accessed?
14. How do the grants work that were received? Do they get reimbursed? Is the money available outright?

Bob stated that it was never the intention for the OAC to implement curriculum or decide how the garden was run. Our charge was to setup the facility to be used by the school.

The OAC will be on the agenda for the May 12th BOE meeting to give a presentation regarding the garden.

The infrastructure list was reviewed by OAC members and discussed. Printouts of items and quotes were passed out and reviewed.

Adjourned: 9:30pm

15 MAY 15 PM 4:15
TOWN OF WESTPORT, CT
Magdalen A. West
TOWN CLERK