March 7.2018

BC Garden Planning Meeting

Attending: Jim Neill, Laurie Leichman, Mike Gorman., Liz Rolison., Mary Omiecinski., Don Simonet, Fletcher Garner, Sue Pflum and Larry Pflum

Goal: What we want to plant late spring and summer.

Mike gave a listing of what we have planted to date.

It was suggested to plant a lot of several popular vegetables, tomatoes, squash, peppers, cucumbers, etc. We want to ensure that all members feel they’ve been able to harvest what they want so we should emphasize high producing varieties.

Liz suggested the raised beds be specialty plants and that we focus on volume. The group supported Liz’s suggestion of fewer special plants and more of the popular vegetables.

Mike said we want to plant in 18” rows and spoke about the need to get the PH balance for vegetables down from the current 7.0 level to ~6.5. He recommended that we spread two year old wood chips to bring the PH down quickly. His source is HL Harrelson & Sons. Larry estimated 600 row feet in Boulder. 300 row feet in Briar Patch. Order 1,500 linear ft. and 6 inches deep. Mike will get an estimate. If the cost is under $200, we will proceed. If it is more, we will bring the issue to the club for a vote. **NOTE: HE SUBSEQUENTLY REALIZED THAT THIS IS NOT A VIABLE SOLUTION BECAUSE SEEDS WILL NOT GROW THROUGH THE CHIPS. A BETTER ALTERNATIVE MAY BE A MIX OF 3 ELEMENTS: MUSHROOM COMPOST, DRIED CHICKEN MANURE AND GROUND PINE NEEDLES. WE CAN MIX THIS OURSELVES AND APPLY AT OUR CONVENIENCE AT A DEPTH OF 1#. THE COST, FROM COUNTRY FARM AND HOME IN PITTSBORO, IS $494 INCLUDING TAX AND DELIVERY. WE WILL ASK THE CLUB TO VOTE.**

Sue is willing to do the potato rows. We will plant on March 17.

**Early Spring Planting:**

**Beets**- can go in now. Add to the existing pea row at Boulder (row 8A) and Bed B at Briar.

**Potatoes** – Will be planted on March 17 in the ground at Briar Patch (Bed C, adjacent to the Children’s Garden)

**Early Summer Planting ~ May 1:**

**Green Beans** will follow peas at Boulder (row 8A) and Bed B at Briar. We have the seeds.

**Tomatoes**: Note that these quantities are minimums; we probably have room for more.

Gail Woods has started heirloom tomatoes and will plant in Briar Patch (raised bed 3).

We will plant all other tomato varieties at both Boulder (3 rows in 8A/8B) and Briar Patch (3 rows in Bed A):

Sun Gold and Sweet One Hundreds (4 plants of each)

Roma (10 plants)

Better Boys (10 plants)

Juliette (10 plants)

**Persian and English cucumbers**. Liz suggested we plant them vertically on the fence adjacent to the shed in Boulder. We will start cukes from seed (40 seeds/variety). We will research which varieties do well in this region.

**Peppers** – We will plant different peppers in each garden to clearly differentiate among varieties:

Sweet peppers – 9 red plants, 9 green, 9 yellow – Plant all greens at Boulder (bed 7B), yellow at Briar (raised bed 5) and red at Briar Patch (raised bed 4)

Banana peppers – 4-5 plants at Boulder (bed 7B)

Hot peppers – Plant all at Briar Patch. 1 Habanera plant, 3 Jalapeno, Red Chili Peppers (raised bed 2 and 6 if more space is needed)

**Squash and Zucchini** - We will plant seeds in both gardens and stagger planting to lengthen the season (Boulder two rows in 8B; Briar two rows in Bed A)

**Okra** – We will plant 3 Clemson Spineless plants at Briar Patch (bed B)

**Eggplant** – We will plant 32 plants of one, high yield variety (Boulder 7a two rows and Briar Bed A one row and raised bed 6 if needed)

**Flowers** - There was discussion of the flowers to plant. We are going to mix flowers (pollinators) with the vegetables. The garden perimeter will not have active irrigation this year so we will only plant hearty, native flowers there. We will plant flowers to cut and some to dry. Additional space for flowers includes Boulder raised beds.

**Herb**s – All herbs will be at Boulder in the existing herb bed. Herbs can be planted May 1.

Larry spoke of improving the signage.

Mike said he wanted to think three seasons ahead. He suggested fall plant rotations.

Mary and Jim agreed to plan the flowers.

Laurie said March 15th the water will be turned on.