

Otsego Master Gardener General Meeting

Zoom

**February 9, 2022**

Facilitator: Jessica Holmes

Notetaker: Jessica Holmes

Guest Speaker: Susan Williams

Attendees: Madelyn Sanchez, Carol Phelps, Kim L’Heureux, Peter Coleman, Pati Grady, Mary Ellen Calta, Mary-Ellen Crawford, Francine Stayter, Diane Dirig, Kathy Koch, Darleen Fournier, Chris Burrington, Susan Jones, Susanna Membrino

Notes:

* Susan Williams presented on Colonial Revival Gardening
* Carol gave a five-minute overview of the Jumping Worm Conference she attended

-Biggest take away is to stop the spread, but there’s not much you can do if you have them
-They cause destruction in wooded areas by destroying the leaf litter. By destroying leaf litter, natives can’t germanite and the natives can’t drive the minerals down in the soil earth worms to the same thing, but it is at a much slower pace
-Fast producers
-They live on the top lay of the soil, so it doesn’t affect roots that go deeper into the soil, like apple trees, but has a big impact on shallow roots like grass
-Solarization does kill the worms and cocoons if it gets to 104 degrees for three days, so you can put them in plastic bags for three days in the sun to kill them

* Teresa came to talk about Ag in the classroom, the topic is about vermicomposting. March 21st-25th, Farm Bureau pays for the books and the schools keep them, geared toward second graders, contact Teresa if you are interested: tla47@cornell.edu
* Teresa also spoke about the 4-H bulb fundraiser in March
* We went over the 2021 end of year financial report, 2022 budget overview and the 2022 Master Gardener volunteer budget.
* Budgets approved with change to the seed starting committees budget ($200 added for pro-mix)
* Pati spoke about the $25K Laura Jane Musser Foundation grant she received for GROW with CCE, this will include money for plant material, signage, office supplies, and an intern. We will be working with the Cooperstown Graduate program for interpretation and research of garden signage
* Francine reports on Education and Outreach: Full report attached and on Moodle
* Pati is going to approach the board to ask if we can transfer the Frank Stevens fund ($1,034) to GROW with CCE (approved by group)
* Pati reported, as of February 8, 2022, the Grow With CCE Campaign has raised $193,352 (towards our $200k goal) from cash, pledged and in-kind donations. Additional contributions include in-kind donations ($2,260) from the Farmers’ Museum, a ($200) grant from Cooperstown Rotary Club & a potential donation to underwrite the costs of lamp posts (approx. $10k) for the garden.
* Pati reported our engineer, Jon McManus, finished the garden plan & parking lot site design. The committee provided him w/ feedback requesting a few modifications. He is currently finishing specifications on the garden house. He expects to circulate the bid packets to prospective contractors by the end of February. If things go according to plan, bids will be accepted & reviewed in March; groundbreaking could begin in late spring.
* Peter reported on grounds that they have been waiting for the engineer and they will be moving ahead shortly. They are doing the final changes now such as making the entrance wider, the rain garden has also had a lot of attention.
* Kim reported on seed starting. They had their first distribution of seeds but need to finish getting all the supplies out. Some supplies are still on back order. Lights are set up for new seed starters as well.
* We looked at the committee document, Jessica is going to resend it to the group with some edits.