

Ruff'ton Roots Community Garden Meeting

Rutherfordton Clubhouse, NC
Tuesday, February 6th - 5:30 pm

A. Welcoming/Community Agreements

Community Agreements

- Assume Good Intentions
- Be Kind
- Honor Time with Intentional Focus
- Any Contribution is Valuable
- We are all Learning and we all have Unique Strengths
- Any Question is a Good Question
- This is a Safe to Fail Environment
- Push your Edge - discomfort can lead to growth!
- Both/And Mindset, over Either/Or

B. February Schedule

Thursday, February 8th - 5:30 pm - Plant Sale Advertising Committee meeting at Main Street Market

Saturday, February 10th - 10 am - Noon - **Garden Work Gathering @ Hospital Drive**

-Assembling and Installing Storyboards; Sign

-Moving Plastic Tarps

-Moving Blueberries, Wineberries, Black Raspberries

Saturday, February 24th - 11 am - 2 pm - **Arts and Crafts Day**

First Project: Stepping Stones/Hop Scotch creation

In the event of rain, we will move to the Rutherfordton Clubhouse Basement

All events through March are up on PointApp, please join!

C. Upcoming Garden Goals

- Project Safeway
 - StoryBoard Signs Ready for Install
 - Look at possibility of second concrete walkway with remaining budget, and handrail options for long walk, will know after printing costs
 - Seal Concrete
 - Strawberries have been planted, Irrigation system arrived, installation after freezing stops
 - Bill board cabinet door is at B&J glass for repair, should be done this week.
- Norris Park
 - Remove plastic and build beds for potatoes, amend and plant in March
 - Seed Potatoes have arrived
- Hospital Drive
 - Gardens cleared, smothered, lime has been spread everywhere needed
- 2024 Crops

- Seeds have arrived and been sorted, first transplants sown
- Amendments have been calculated and ordered

D. Upcoming Fundraising Plans

Plant Sale Committee Updates

- Ordered/Received: seedlings, plastics and tags have been ordered
- Scheduling sessions to plan/sow/pot up - *March 21st, 4:30 @ Deer Valley Farm*
- Purchasing needs - vermiculite, potting soil, azomite
- Additional Committee Updates:
 - *We are looking for/welcoming volunteers to grow transplants at their homes for the sale*
 - *In the event of rain on May 4th, we will reschedule as soon as possible*

Empty Bowls Committee

- Lindy met with Clay Trail and the Guild in January
 - The Guild requested a "Prompt" for other artists to contribute \$50+ value item to Silent Auction - expanded outside of ceramics
 - Contributing artists would also be offered a guest ticket, requested acknowledgement of the Guild
 - May be going to speak to them at FA&B event.
 - Something Broad to Spark Creativity across disciplines
 - Winner by blind vote: **DEEP ROOTS**
 - Ceramic Sorcery and the Clay Trail - New Agreement in Place to pay 85% of studio time and materials and pay teachers for their time - calculated per participant
 - NEW - participants will each pay \$5 participation fee, and register on studio's websites (will not be on POINT)
 - Studios will build events, manage registrations
 - Ensures attendance - protects against no shows
 - Helps Studios prepare better, sharing the load of organizing, eliminates our payment for no shows
 - 2 sessions at Clay Trail in June, Saturdays TBD
 - 2 sessions at the Guild - July 13th and July 27th
 - Potter Pledge Sign Up Sheets are up in both studios. 35 bowls already pledged at the Guild!
- Committee meetings beginning after plant sale, 30 minutes prior to May Meeting

Merchandise Updates

- Hats have been ordered
 - 30 gray-on-black, 5-panel, Legacy trucker, with full color logo
- Need to get size inventory on all shirts (*Emily is on it!*)
- Freebee Kid Merch needed for April 5th FA&B and plant sale
 - *Look into wristbands, seed paper, temporary tattoos*

E. Organization Updates

- Rufftonroots.org - Our website is in order and can be a great tool to direct potential donors or volunteers, with less explanation required on your part.
 - We have a Donate Button on Our Website! Links directly to our PayPal Account.
 - January Meeting Minutes are posted there, February will be too!
 - Our 2024 events calendar is there, along with more updated information.
 - Can subscribe directly to our newsletter on website
- RTR site - Ruff'ton Roots page is updated with 2024 events and information
- General call for Volunteer flyers were designed, printed and posted around town. Brochures out at Small Town Coffee.
- Applied for Community Health Council Growing Together Grant for equipment needs
 - Broadfork, shovel hoes, and push seeder
- TRUCK
 - Respectfully released the offer, which seemed unnecessary
- Norris Park and Public Works
 - Later this spring Public Works will begin major construction at Norris Park
 - Big tree dropping limbs by the field will be taken out
 - Clubhouse and old golf maintenance shed will be demolished
 - Heavy equipment will be used to level our new shed
 - Then we can install much needed shelving
 - New metal barn will be built - Ruff'ton Roots can use for storage
 - Tractor, Row covers and plastic tarps
 - Getting as much as possible out of the clubhouse

F. Other Collaboration Discussions

- Hosting a Swarm Catcher
 - Rutherford County Beekeepers will put up a swarm catcher, far from the garden. Approved by a volunteer with severe bee allergy. We will check twice a week in March, April, May and June and notify if swarm present.
- BARN - 2024 partnership
 - Follow Up from January, baton for Farm to Pantry fund has been passed peacefully. Pantries will now pick up directly from the market, in rotation. This amplifies the haul for them and removes us from the distribution chain

G. Open discussion, Adjourn.