Standard Operating Procedure

Community Organic Vegetable Garden at the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University

Purpose:

An area of land has been provided by the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University at the Grafton, Massachusetts campus to be used as a vegetable garden by anyone associated with the university (i.e. students, faculty, hospital employees). The area has been divided into individual plots of land to be gardened as the individual wishes, with the only stipulation being that organic practices be maintained. The goals of this garden include expanding agricultural pursuits at the university, exchange of knowledge and skills, and continuing to foster a sense of community on campus.

Procedures:

The garden will be run and maintained based upon the following:

- The garden will be located for the 2014 growing season in an area of land between the Equine I barn and the large animal hospital. The location will be moved in future years, and this area will only be used for this year. No fence has been installed for practicality and financial purposes as this is a temporary location. Due to the location, a large amount of destruction due to wildlife is not anticipated, however will be evaluated later in the season and addressed as needed. The soil has been tilled and enriched with composted manure and chopped hay by Jim Phillips. He has offered chopped hay for garden members to use as mulch. Skip Bigelow of grounds keeping and Lyn Schad of the large animal hospital have been contacted and consulted so that the garden is in an acceptable area and that appropriate practices are maintained. Grounds keeping will continue to mow the area surrounding the garden. Garden members will not plant outside of the allotted tilled area.

- A separate hose, splitter, and sprinkler have been purchased to water the garden, with costs to be split between garden members. The faucet on the other side of Equine I will be utilized. Garden members will split the responsibility of watering the garden.

- Garden members will take particular care to be quiet and respectful so as to make a minimal impact on hospital and barn employees as well as horses and other animals that are nearby. Consideration will also be made to ensure the area surrounding the garden will be kept neat with no items left in the lawn. Garden members are asked and expected to be tidy and leave no items
behind. All gardening tools will be brought to the garden and taken away by the members when they leave.

- Many plants were donated for use in the garden by Steve Libuda and John Mapel of Mapel Plants Nursery. Only annual vegetables and herbs will be planted this year.

- The garden consists of fifteen plots roughly 12’ x 7’ in three rows of five plots each. Two plots on the end facing the hospital are roughly 18’ x 4’.

- All extra produce grown from the garden will be donated to Betsy Like to sell at the library. All proceeds will go directly to the Travis Fund.

- A Word Press will be created to facilitate communication and exchange of ideas for garden members.

Members for the 2014 growing season:

- Emily Andersen
- Ellen Baker
- Rebecca Bishop
- Talya Caspi
- Rachel Cooper
- Beth Goodland
- Betsy Hartman
- Alexandria Hicks-Nelson
- Lesli Kibler
- Sangun Lee
- Betsy Like
- Federica Maggio Pizzirani
- Jessica Mintz/Tiffany Baird (sharing a plot)
- Valerie Nesser
- Salvador Rivas
- Kristen Thane
- Elsa Yeung
- Christina Chen (joining in August)
- Carla Stoffel (joining at the end of the summer)

- Emily Andersen will coordinate the garden for the 2014 growing season. She takes it as her responsibility to either coordinate the garden for the following year or find an appropriate person to do so.

Written July 7, 2014