

Garden Committee Minutes March 2, 2015

Attending: Sara Bevans, Pat McGill, Duane Heiden, Lynn Hartog, Marjorie Shreve

Marjorie briefly reviewed the garden planting plan for the spring. We will plant early spring beets, lettuce, spinach and onions where the squash type plants will be planted later as their harvest will be completed probably by mid- June and then the squash can be planted. We want to plant more onions this year—and will get the ones that have the green start—some red, yellow and white. Eileen Lindahl donated 4 seed starting kits to use as we wish.

We decided to plant potatoes the week after Easter and will decide that week depending on the weather.

The last frost date is April 21-30 for the Lincoln area or May 1-10 a little farther east (per on line source).

We discussed getting the large water tank for setting up the drip irrigation and Duane will get some help to pick that up in a couple of weeks and then we will let Pam Dingman know it is here so she and Sara Wilson's friend, also an engineer, can figure out how to set it up for the best way to use it for the garden. Duane said it will need to be on blocks and maybe the middle can be supported by soil. We thought some of the dirt dug from the elevator shaft would work if needed.

We discussed planting flowers that attract beneficial insects around the perimeter of the garden—we had cosmos and marigolds last year. Marjorie suggested alyssum, coreopsis, cosmos, amaranthus, short sunflowers, parsley and Shasta daisies. Nasturtiums are also good.

Marjorie suggested and there was some interest in starting a butterfly garden with milkweed varieties and Sara mentioned that the statewide arboretum has resources for this—Marjorie will research this for the next discussion. We were thinking as long as we leave enough space for good barbecue parking and roadway we might be able to start one where the dirt from the elevator shaft is—as it is cleared away.

We decided that it would be wise to have a way to get water from the church to the garden in case the rain barrels do not supply sufficient water. Sara said she would talk to her husband Bill and have him and the trustee chair Brian Ebke decide what would be reasonable.

Lynn and Marjorie will get together sometime soon to plant some seeds—maybe just flowers as we are going to buy most of the tomatoes this year, peppers and some of the herbs.

Marjorie Shreve

Addendum

I looked on line post meeting and found backyard farmer said early vegetables could be planted as follows:

After March 15: asparagus crowns, collard, onion sets, garden peas, radishes, spinach, turnips

After March 30: leeks, mustard, potatoes, swiss chard

After April 5: beets, cabbage, carrots, bibb lettuce, leaf lettuce

Others (tomatoes etc) after May 15 or a little before. 😊