

**Bennington County EMG Chapter Planning Meeting**  
**Monday, March 20, 2023 5:00pm – 6:30 Old First Church Barn, Bennington**

*Attendees: Heather Hamilton, Dottie Sundquist, Becky Manning, Mia Clark, Irene Goyette (Zoom), Melissa Meola, Martha Beauchamp*

**Steering Committee Officers/Roles**

Heather Hamilton '15, **Chairperson**

Becky Manning '20, **Treasurer**

Joni Charbonneau '07, Irene Goyette '19 - **Social Media Administrators**

Melissa Meola '21 - **Education Coordinator**

Becky Manning '20, **Newsletter**

Dottie Sundquist '09, **Membership Coordinator**

Megan Herrington '20, **Hospitality**

**Steering Committee Project Leaders**

Martha Beauchamp '19, Irene Goyette '19 - Plant Sale

Mia Clark '17, Melissa Meola '21 – Manchester Community Library Pollinator Garden

Heather Hamilton '15, George Aiken Wildflower Trail

Heather Hamilton '15, Old First Church Marker Garden

Megan Herrington '20, Martha Beauchamp '19 - Bennington Community Garden and Demo Garden

Becky Manning '20 - John McCullough Community Library Herb Garden

Melissa Meola '21 - Farmers Markets

Dottie Sundquist '09, Heather Hamilton '15 – Gardens at Yellow Barn Farm

*Reminder:* Everyone must ensure they have completed the UVM Youth Protection Policy requirements (every three years). Heather will receive a list of those needing to do so this year.

*Homegrown Nat'l Park* – Heather has ordered lawn signs for BCG, GYBF, NB Library, and Manchester Community Library. Project leaders: list your site at <https://homegrownnationalpark.org/>

*Recognitions:* Two more people have met their EMG membership requirements! (Katrina and Maggie). Heather has put in 750 hours of stellar EMG support work. Congratulations to all.

*Intern mentoring:* Dottie will coordinate intern mentoring - each intern will be linked to a mentor but everyone is more than welcome to guide an intern (as needed). Chapter membership's early season first priority is the plant sale (the primary revenue generator). Course participants will learn about all projects during the final days of the course.

*Budget Guidelines for 2023:* Current balance is \$8,748.45. Four interns received scholarships for the course (\$1,000 total). Each project to begin the season with a \$200 credit; if that is spent and an additional need arises, expenditure can be discussed (email Becky and Heather with the specifics). Please submit one request for all expenditures for reimbursement at the end of every month: in cover email pls. include person making purchase, store, item, project name, amount and purpose if not obvious. (You can just write info. on the receipt and scan if that works for you).

*Project Calendar & Programs*

○ April

- True Love tour and seed starting –April 1 from 2-3pm. \$100 honorarium to Karen Trubitt (in keeping with previous speakers' fees)
- Open Garden visits:
  - McCullough Library may hold a Blooming Bulbs event for kids (TBD)

- Yellow Barn: garlic mustard pull and companion planting
  - At the end of April or start of May, Becky will host a stroll through Mile Around Woods to introduce the Fund for North Bennington's Ecosystem Resilience project.
  - Day in the Dirt 4/29 - 9am-12pm – BCG (TBD) This is an all- VT Garden Network project.
- **May**
  - Thursday 5/18 evening Intern welcome,
  - 5/20, Edible Invasives, Bennington Museum George Aiken Trail with BK CISMA and ECO AmeriCorps Service Members
    - 9:30 a.m. Garlic mustard pull
    - 10:00 a.m. Targeting 5 edible plant species, learn in-the-field identification, edible parts, and enjoy delicious edible treats made with invasives. Recipes included.
  - Need to get compost/mulch from somewhere for Plant Sale potting since no Home Depot contribution this year. Casella in Bennington provides screened compost and top soil for about \$30 cubic yard [1 cubic yard covers 324 Sq ft at one inch deep; 33 gallon garbage can is about ½ cubic yard]. Casella's Compost Awareness program is the first full week of May - anyone stopping by gets 5 gallons of **free compost**.
- **June**
  - On-line Plant Sale Pick-up June 3 9-12
    - Bennington (Heather), N. Bennington (Martha), Arlington – Yellow Barn (Dottie)
  - Open Garden Visits to encourage more community volunteers
    - Link Benn. Comm. Garden with the Walloomsac Walk. TBD
    - Manchester Garden planting day? (New intern is a volunteer at this library)
  - June 10. Bennington Farmer's Market Plant Sale. Melissa to find out the new market manager. Next year, consider linking with Harvest Fest or Garlic Fest

### *Educational Events for Members and Community*

- Pest management in the Garden? Melissa already has a presentation prepared. July/Arlington?
- Composting – constructing facility at GYBF – intro?
- Harvest Fest – info table?
- Homegrown National Park <https://linktr.ee/homegrownnationalpark> Fun daily updates on Instagram
- Climate change

### *Chapter Outing*

- Melissa looking into options – Yaddo possibly. Other ideas?

### *Farmers' Market Booths*

- Bennington, Arlington, North Bennington/Park McCullough?

### *Carry Forward/Next Meeting*

- Update on the three experiments: amount /type of weeds and/or pests in compost and mulch from Casella's Bennington facility (Becky); effectiveness of Dottie's cardboard punch planter.
- Hope your shower tick removal scrubbies will be helpful!