

Sewer Sisters Meeting  
April 9, 2022

There was a great turnout as we resume inside and unmasked meetings- it was a delight to be able to see everyone's smiles and enjoy their humor as we make plans for our springtime events in Boston Harbor. Thank you to Christine and Dennis Peck for hosting in your lovely home, and for Linda Eich's contributions to the tasty morning snacks.

Before we get to the garden tour business, a few other items were discussed:

**Oyster Shell Update:**

We are still in limbo regarding purchasing these for the shipwreck corner, it has been a bit of a mystery as Lee and Patty have tried to find a source. Cedar knows 'Margaret' from the Shellfish Growers Association who might have more concrete information for us. The plan is for Patty, Lee and Mary to continue researching the availability of getting these for our landscaping, and hopefully before the garden tour in June.

**Funds from the Boston Harbor Neighborhood Association:**

In the past the Sewer Sisters have received money from the association to support our work ( water use at the corner, landscaping supplies, etc). Mary will investigate.

**High School workers:**

Joanne mentioned that the Nanneys have a lead on teenagers for hire to help with yard work. Joanne will contact Bob to see if there are any reliable teens that would like to be employed by BH neighbors, and also to help with the oyster shells, should the shells manifest themselves this spring. Marina employees have also been available for hire, especially during Covid times. Still a possibility.

**Stormwater Project:**

The current plan is that this extensive work on Boston Harbor Road will not begin until after July 3. It will therefore not be a disruption for either the garden tour or the annual July 3<sup>rd</sup> fireworks. Nancy spoke with Nate Einsley, Senior Water Resources Engineer, Thurston County Public Works, Saturday afternoon after the meeting and learned that the start date is most likely early August.

**Boatramp Project:**

No scheduled timeline yet. This is very dependent on when the various fish spawn, making the window of opportunity quite short.

**Marina Upgrades:**

The marina is currently rebuilding and replacing various ramps and walkways. The plan is to make the docks all like the one at the north end that was replaced a few years ago. Not sure of timeline for completion. Mary will get the scoop from Cam.

**Dover Point news:**

Richard Kelly's property was purchased by Mike Buehler, and building will commence this fall. Mary voiced optimism that the house plans will fit nicely into the property. And what a view!

**Burfoot Park:**

A new bathroom by the playground is going to be installed this Spring, and the old bathroom will be removed once the new one is functioning. The grassy area will also be graded. Currently it is so pot-holed that the mowing equipment is often damaged during the mowing.

Next year the plan is for the stairways and boardwalks to be replaced and drainage in the park improved. Ed Marson, Parks Maintenance & Operations Manager, Thurston County Parks & Trails, told a group from the BHA environment committee who met with him at the park a couple of weeks ago that the County had requested a \$400,000 federal grant to be matched by \$400,000 from the county to fund this work. He will be working with the engineers this summer to plan the upgrades but work won't start until next summer.

Jen mentioned a group in Portland, Oregon called the 'No Ivy League', consisting of volunteers who work together to control the invasive plant. Nancy, from the Environment Committee of the BH Neighborhood Association, discussed the work parties that are done that address some of the ivy problem. Gathering more information about the No Ivy League could be one way that we could have a more consistent plan for dealing with the abundant ivy in our park.

**Okay, now THE GARDEN TOUR**

Sunday June 26, 2022 10:00am - 2:00pm

After tour party at the Gentry's ( YAY!) at 4pm. Bring a savory or sweet dish to share, and your favorite beverage and a drinking glass for that said drink. Let's try not to add to the plastic dilemma if we can avoid it...

***Gardens on Tour:***

Peggy and Chas Dreyfus

Michelle and Bob Nanny

Nancy and Mark Brown - raised beds

Christine and Dennis Peck, front yard.

Lasha and Ed Steinweg.

Amanda Kuehn - Amanda had indicated that they were having fence work done and if that happened at the same time as the Garden Tour she would not be able to host. However, the fence contractors started work on April 14<sup>th</sup> so the fence work should not be a problem.

For anyone on the tour, having business cards for any landscape design, installation or service that they have used is a great way to help visitors who might want more information about what they are seeing on the tour.

Solar panel homes. Cedar will compile a list of Boston Harbor homes that have solar panels, to allow visitors to see the possibility for themselves. The hope is that each home with solar panels who will open up their homes for viewing their panels will write up a short description of their solar system. Cedar has provided the one she and Larry compiled for the local 2020 Garden tour which can serve as an excellent template for the other home owners.

There will be a map and brochure for the garden. Pam has done this for past tours. Nancy asked Pam after the meeting about making the brochure for 2022 which she readily agreed to do. She can also create a map of hosts (as well as solar panel owners).

The tour home owners also usually write up a short description of their yards and landscaping.

**Garden tour advertising.** Cedar will make some posters for the tour, Jen and Christine will work on the art design and then Cedar will print them. These will go on sandwich boards that Mary, Linda and Cedar already have. TBD: Placement of sandwich boards

Other advertising will be via Next Door, at the marina and at Gull Harbor Mercantile, Margo will check with the merc. Also Thurston Talks- Mary will contact.

The art fliers will also be posted at the coop and the Eastside Urban Garden Store.

Garden tour cost is \$10.00 per person. Maybe \$20.00 if a large family? This year we will have Boston Harbor Garden Tour pins that Jen will make and Christine will help with the design. When visitors pay for the tour they will receive their pin. Extra pins could also be sold at the marina.

**Tour aprons.** We used to have aprons for the garden hosts to wear, but they have disappeared. Peggy, Christine and Margo have offered to make new ones for this year. Thank you! The aprons are for those stationed at each house to collect the \$10 fee. Do we also want them for the folks who will be helpers/docents at each home? How will we request volunteers for this job and how will train them?

Post meeting update: Christine sent her rough design to her friend James Kocsis, a graphic designer. She now has a couple of potential designs for both the aprons and the pins.

In the past Micheale had some of her gorgeous floral pots for sale. Mary will contact her to see if she wants to do this again. We also used to have music and crafts- not this year.

**Porta potties.** Thank you Mary for arranging these. TBD: Locations of porta potties.

**Work parties are planned so that we can prepare and enjoy the shipwreck corner.**

April 23, May 21 and June 11, all at 9:30am. The June date will also be our meeting for the month, and then we can do more work at the corner as needed. Hopefully we will have managed to obtain the oyster shells by one of these work parties, and high school students to help distribute them. All Sewer Sister members are encouraged to attend at least one of the work parties so that the Corner looks nice for those coming to the Garden Tour.

Phew!

Respectfully submitted by Lasha Steinweg  
Edited by Nancy Brown