



Program Advisory Committee Minutes

Sustainable Horticulture - October 2018

Members Present: Chris Grant ; Lisa Fulsom- Nunan's Greenhouse; Pat Riccardi- Riccardi Wholesale Flowers , Amanda Mattison

Instructor: Jillian Plante

Parent: n/a

Student: n/a

Program Facilitator: Jillian Plante

Committee Chair: Chris Grant

General Advisory Committee Member: Chris Grant

Subject: Review Shop/Laboratory Facilities & Equipment

Discussion: The committee walked through the headhouse, Blooming Designs and the attached greenhouses. Overall they were very impressed. Some concern about the evaporative cooler algae issue was discussed, looks like we can take the bottom of it off for cleaning. We discuss the changing of Blooming Designs to include a school store. Pat mentioned that we should be using the Roadside Stand more.

Subject: Student Enrollment/Placement

Discussion: We discussed the current numbers. Additionally we discussed the activities that are currently being done with the Freshmen Explore students to help promote the program.

Subject: New Trends in the Occupational Area

Discussion: Succulents and airplants are major trends in the industry. Amanda suggested including information on beneficial insects and banker plants for control. The New England Greenhouse Conference is happening this year, November 7 & 8th.

Subject: Employment Outlook

Discussion: Employers are looking for candidates with better soft skills- making change and talking to customers came up as important topics.

Subject: Recommendations

Discussion: The committee discussed using the roadside stand and the far greenhouse - and also spoke about the main concern of not being able to move merchandise in the colder weather. It was suggested that we purchase a shop gator, with trailer hitch and trailer to be used for this. We should also investigate a way to cover the plant material in the cold without using sleeves which can damage the plant if used multiple times.