**Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Middlesex County Master Gardener Focus Group**

**August 26, 2011**

In attendance:  Jamie Burgess, John Carlson, Marsha Dowling, Chantal Foster, Maureen Gillis, Barbara Glista, along with InternKaren Rottner

**Thanks to Karen** for the snacks!!!

**Minutes** have been posted to<http://mcmgcg.weebly.com/>

**Garden Observations:**

* Tomatoes are winding down; many plants have little to no foliage
* Melons aren’t quite ripe yet
* Peppers still going strong
* Second planting of beans coming along

Maureen passed around the harvest sign-up calendar for last week of August and September, we have had good coverage during the season and everyone is doing a great job with communication on what has been harvested and tended in the garden!

**Financials:**

Maureen indicated we are in good shape with a balance of $516.24 balance, if anyone has expenditures that need reimbursing, please submit!

**Old Business:**

* Soil around the fence perimeter (inside and out) will be amended; Chantal will order 3 yards of compost from T & C for delivery on 10/8, the first “Garden Close” date
* Thanks to Cherry for organizing the foundation weeding/mulching event and to all those who participated. A great improvement, the grounds really look lovely!

**New Business:**

* There will be two Saturday Garden Close Dates as follows beginning at 9:00 am with snacks provided by Maureen and Chantal:
  + October 8: amend perimeter, sow spinach, some clean up, soil samples, cold frame planting
  + October 29: put everything away (hoses, etc.), plant garlic

If needed, rain dates will be the following Sundays (10/9 & 10/30)

* Maureen passed around a sign-up for the Haddam Neck and Durham Fairs, which Jim is coordinating
* Maureen reminded everyone about the Active Certification Form which is due back to the UConn MG program if you wish to retain your active MG status!

Open Discussion: We discussed looking into disease-resistant tomatoes for next year – Maureen will research. There was a lively discussion regarding MG Certification and liability issues. Not sure if anything was decided!

Meeting ended at 7:45 pm. **Next meeting scheduled for Friday, September 23 at 6:30 pm**, Chantal will bring refreshments.

Submitted by,

Chantal Foster