



Stanley H. Kellerhouse Municipal Building
One Van Wyck Street
Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520-2501

Mayor
Leo A. W. Wiegman

Trustees
Ian W. Murtaugh
Ann H. Gallelli
Demetra Restuccia
Richard Olver

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Pauline DiSanto
Engineer
Daniel F. O'Connor, P.E.

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Press Release Croton Community Garden

[Croton-on-Hudson, October 16, 2009] The Croton Community Garden cooperative now has two dozen volunteers and will shortly present proposed by-laws to the Village board. After the Croton Community Garden volunteers found old asphalt millings under a portion of the garden located near the Silver Lake parking lot on Truesdale Drive, the DPW removed the millings and the soil has been tested. The soil test, completed at Cornell Labs, revealed no abnormal levels of heavy metals related to asphalt. The Lab Report can be found at the village website under the Sustainability Team.

In order to insure proper drainage and raise the beds above the rocky, clay soil, the gardeners have decided to lay a 6" layer of gravel to act as a base and a buffer for the garden. On top of this layer the gardeners will build soil contained within raised beds 18 to 20 inches high. To build soil one needs chopped leaves, grass clippings and time: the end result is compost, a nutritious and healthy soil perfect for growing plants. Raised beds allow the soil to warm up quickly and allows for excellent drainage, thus prolonging the growing season in our colder climate. The gardeners are exploring what materials to use to achieve their goals and will most likely decide by early spring.

Niall Kelleher, the Cooperative's leader, has recently signed up to become a "master composter" where he will study at Stone Barns, Sheldrake Environmental Center and various Waste to Energy Disposal plants throughout Westchester. He sees the potential for composting to be a large component of this community garden, "Imagine the leaves we can take out of the waste stream and the amount of money that will save the village over time." It is the gardeners' hope to build 100% of their needed soil. The process begins this fall with the goal of creating enough soil to begin gardening by spring.

Demetra Restuccia, the Village Trustee who drove this effort, admires their long view, "These gardeners are not just thinking about growing tomatoes next spring but rather are thinking of building a beautiful, sustainable garden that will inspire this community for years and years to come-I have tremendous admiration for any group that can overcome setbacks with such grace and tenacity."

To date, the village has spent about \$5,600 on the fence and the water line to the garden. When the asphalt was discovered and proved, despite their best efforts, to be too much for gardeners and shovels,

the DPW removed the top layer of soil throughout the garden along with the asphalt tilling. The DPW has promised to deliver one more load of soil when—and if—the gardeners ask for it.

Susan Lunden, Chair of the Village’s newly formed Sustainability Team, is excited about the garden, “A vegetable garden will be another wonderful way to gather neighbors in Croton. And locally grown produce has lower transportation costs and therefore a smaller footprint. I’m looking forward to seeing what develops in the spring.”

For details, visit www.crotononhudson-ny.gov

Contact: Janine King, Assistant Village Manager, jking@crotononhudson-ny.gov, 914-271-4781.