

Lersøgrøftens Integrationsbyhaver



Generalforsamling Lørdag den 9. marts 2024 kl. 13:00 - 16:00

Meeting at Smedetoften 14, 2400 Kbh NV

Minutes:

1. Welcome and Election of moderator, minute taker, and vote counters

Cyndi and Martin welcomed everyone to the general assembly and agreed that the meeting will be held in English/Danish.

Moderator: Cyndi - no objections

Minute taker: Amandine - no objections

Vote counter: Manja & Armin

2. Annual report

Gardens: The previous year is summarized with some pictures from the gardens, while everybody is reminded of the general association and garden rules. 26 new gardeners are joining the association this year. The waiting list is open again until the limit is reached or 1 May.

Garden Days: These somewhat monthly events help us to maintain the common areas and build community. We work for part of the time and do social things afterward. Everyone is expected to come on time and stay for the duration. Every member should join at least 2 garden days/year, otherwise they will be charged the absence fee. 42 gardeners didn't come to any, 42 only for one, and 69 came for 2 garden days or more. It is possible to obtain garden day credits by doing tasks advertised by the board (e.g., helping for the general assembly). Please contact the board if you have any suggestions for something that needs doing, and you can get some credits depending on the task. In the summer, the board sends an email with the garden day credits to confirm and as a reminder to participate in the garden days. The dates for the garden days 2024 will be selected by the incoming board at their first meeting. There is usually a garden day in April.

Harvest: Pictures were shown of some of last year's harvest. We had less reports of theft, but it is still a problem. E.g., tomatoes, raspberries. Maybe try to plant these away from the path.

Harvest Festival: the harvest festival was held in September. After some work in the common areas, we enjoyed a larger meal together, featuring produce

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from our gardens and common areas. The photos from the photo contest 2023 were also judged while we enjoyed looking back upon the year.

Bees: Our beekeeper, Ferdi, has once again offered us some of the honey that he harvested from his hives. Due to conflict/fear with the colony gardens, the hives were moved a bit farther away from our neighbors. Everyone seems to be happy with the new placement.

Greenhouse: The greenhouse (built in 2012) was our big project over the course of 2023. Some of the glass was replaced or reglazed. The peeling paint was also carefully scraped off and redone. At the end of the season, a couple new raised beds were added to increase growing space. Gardeners are encouraged to use the greenhouse to harden off seedlings that they have started at home, but be mindful of leaving room for other gardeners. Plants remaining without clear signage will be planted in common areas on the second garden day. The beds are for common plants and used during the garden day, so ask the board if you want to plant something. There is a special group to water the common plants in the greenhouse.

Questions:

- Any working groups? Sometimes, if someone has a motivation for something. There is a working group for watering the greenhouse, coordinated on Facebook. There is one group for managing the compost, but it has not been particularly successful.

3. Financial report

Presentation of accounts

Ylva presented in detail the account for the year 2023.

Questions:

- Tiny Forest project: funds from an external organization that wanted to do a tiny forest beyond the high number gardens. The project didn't work out so the funds were returned. They would have to reapply for funding.
- Manure cost is high (8.894kr) due to transport cost.
- Insurance coverage: general liability insurance if somebody gets hurt, required to have.
- High cost of water. How can we do it differently? The company was switched (due to truck size). The kolonihave are not up to sharing the water supply. We cannot get our own water supply, as it is not possible to have a supply directly from the municipality. So we need to have an agreement from somebody else to use their water supply. It would require around 200.000kr to hset up a connection. The truck will come when the tanks are mostly empty, as it is expensive to make the truck come, but the truck is also too small to have water for all the tanks.

Remember to check if the other tanks have water if the ones close to your garden don't have any more. The municipality doesn't really help as they report the responsibility to Hofo and so on. Also because due to the lease for the ground, it is not allowed to make permanent structures. Additionally, to increase the water collection system, it is difficult because there is limited possibility with the lease to have something with a roof.

The assembly approves the financial report with 18/18 votes.

4. Suggestions received

Set the membership fee

Board suggestion - keep at 500 kr

Approved by 18/18 votes.

Set the fine for not participating in each of two garden days

Board suggestion - keep at 250kr

Approved by 18/18 votes.

Question:

- There are 10-12 occasions for garden days or alternative tasks, so at least two garden days between late March to the fall should be manageable. Everybody is welcome to come up with suggestions for things to be done. Two persons coming for the same garden count as one garden day.

Annual Waiting list fee

Board suggestion - keep at 100 dkk

Approved by 18/18 votes.

5. Approval of budget

Presentation of budget

Ylva presents the budget for the year 2024.

Questions:

- 50.000kr for project pool: put aside if someone has ideas, depending on the people's suggestions. It is usually not fully spent. E.g., A speaker is coming in two weeks, with money coming from that fund.

- Idea: invite a water management consultant to see what can be done in the garden. Email the board with suggestions.
- Compost/manure: last year, a lot of compost was used, with new gardeners not knowing well how much is necessary. There are plans to educate people on how to best use the compost/manure. This year the compost is not as strong and people can use more.
 - Working in progress sign to explain how to use compost.
- Communication: nothing official and important is communicated only on Facebook, but it is sent on email. Only the greenhouse group can work on Facebook.
- Communication expenses: various signs in the gardens and printouts for general assembly and meetings. Expenses for the mail system and the website go under communication or administration.
 - Suggestion: sign to explain about the place for people going around and know more about the place. This is a work in progress.

The budget is approved by 18/18 votes.

6. Election of Board members

Questions:

- The board meets every one to second month, usually the week before a garden day. Alternates act in practice as full board members.

Election of Full board members

Martin and Cyndi explain the board tasks.

Board members (attend meetings and can vote on decisions)
Aarón Sosa, Mikkeline Kaadach-Larsen, and Mette Urth (DK) are ending their terms. Cyndi Nipper and Naima Kaadach have another year left on their terms. 3 board members shall be elected (at least 1 Danish, 1 non-Danish).

New board members: Mette Urth, Martin Frølund, Amandine Godet

Election of Alternatives

Alternates (attend meetings and can vote in the absence of a full member). Ylva and Martin are completing their 1-year terms. At least 2 shall be chosen.

New alternates: only one alternate Ylva (14). Room for another one after the meeting (call by email). No opposition to that.

Election of internal auditor and alternate

New auditor: Marc (127)

New alternate: Manja (105)

7. Photo contest awards 2023, winner presentation

Cyndi and Martin explained about the contest, the photos that were sent of different categories. We voted for the winners at the Harvest Festival, and they have received a gift card.

The winners are gardens no: 126, 54, 13, 13, 136, 41, 108

For the photo contest 2024, email the photo to the board or by Facebook and the board will print them out for the photo contest day. The board uses the photos to send on Facebook or mail, if people don't want to have their photos sent out, they can write to the board (especially relevant if there are people in the picture).

8. Discussion on developments in organic gardening and how we should proceed (possible changes to house rules)

Martin presented on new thinking in organic/responsible gardening including what is stated in our association documents.

- Adaptation to the changing weather patterns and storm surges (drought and heavy rain).
 - Plants with taproots: pollution tests show that the soil is ok, so limited risk for having these plants going deep in the soil.
 - Multi-year plants: robust roots. Note that you can have these plants from the neighboring gardens (before removing everything).
 - Possibility to have a common file to share what works well (from previous people). Easier to have it on the website (to have the documents in the same place).
 - People are encouraged to come and share seeds on the first two garden days. There are seed boxes in the containers.
 - A book from Jens Juhl, especially on gardening in cities. Similar information could be useful on the website.
 - Ground cover: coordination of hay or seaweed to bring a lot to the gardens? The problem is that this kind of material needs to be stored in containers, otherwise it doesn't last. Possibilities to have an agreement with other people, or go to a pet store.

- Alternate when it is very dry (then ground cover works well), and remove some if it is wet to avoid problems with snails (you can also cut them in halves, use garlic, coffee ground, broken eggshells, etc).
- Garden Claw (blue tool) in the container to remove the grass and you can put it in a separate pile (the one closest to the kolonihave).
 - Something with no grass in between the gardens? Not much thought, but it could be. It is a lot of maintenance.
 - House rule "Rotational cultivation must be applied". Is it still relevant? It doesn't encourage people to use pluriannual plants.
 - Rotational cultivation is a good idea as plants use different nutrients, and can help with the spread of diseases. This problem arises with one year plants.
 - Improve biodiversity
 - Plants or weeds?
 - May 1st assessment of garden activity: problem with people becoming inactive, difficult to assess whether people are active or not. Permaculture thinking: observe for one year before doing anything (you can put a sign and educate people on that). After 1st of May if there is no sign of activity, the board sends a warning, and there is some time to act on it. Sometimes, it is the same people over the years.
 - The grass between the gardens also helps with the rain. It depends on the type of grass as well whether it is invasive or not.
 - Honeybees or bumblebees
 - There are two beehives with gardens. Dilemma between wild bees and honeybees. Decision now to keep the bees but not have more.
 - Beehives are not a problem with the gardens around.
 - Suggestion for one garden day: have someone to show how to do bee hotels, or refuges/piles for bees. However, bee hotels bought in supermarkets can be damageable for bees. Difficult to find reliable information on the internet.
 - Suggestion: have an insects inventory or have someone come to explain how we could do that.
 - Suggestion: own managed trash bins. Maybe in the containers so people outside the association cannot use it. If it is outside, people would use it and would be filled daily. Or have a key to the trash can. Needs to have trash to avoid having weeds that we don't want in the compost, and trash.

Closure of the assembly at 16:00. See you in the gardens.

Board signatures

Formand

Kasserer

Næstformand

Bestyrelsesmedlem

Bestyrelsesmedlem