

Sitka Local Foods Network
January 23, 2009 - Meeting Notes

Attendance: Doug Osborne, Kerry MacLane, Natalie Sattler, Linda Wilson
Carolyn Servid, Jack Ozment, Tom Crane, **Name of the young man that came late?**

Mr. MacLane provided an update on his efforts to identify grant funding opportunities and his research on the requirements and procedures for attaining 501 C (3) status. Fees to file for official non-profit status are: \$50 State of Alaska and \$500 Federal.

Mr. MacLane reported that he has been in contact with Jamie Chevalier of the Bountiful Harvest Seed Company regarding the possibility that SLFN can become a seed dealer. Bountiful Harvest specializes in cold climate crop varieties that should be appropriate for Sitka. Seed sales would be a fundraiser for SLFN projects.

Mr. Osborne reported that he had a good meeting with Bob Gorman, the new Cooperative Extension Service leader for Sitka. Their discussion included cooperation on developing a new well-planned community garden. One possible site is located on Japonski Island on SEARHC property. Specifically, there is a large area of lawn between SEARHC and Mt. Edgecumbe High School. Mr. Osborne stated that Mr. Gorman gave a cost estimate of **\$60?** per square foot to build a proper greenhouse in Sitka.

Mr. MacLane suggested the Mr. Gorman could be a resource for improving access to berry harvest areas.

Ms. Servid suggested looking at a school program in Berkley that has the students growing food for the school in an attached garden. She also suggested looking at a vacant area next to Baranof Elementary that was once a part of the Russian gardens. Perhaps this spot would be suitable for growing potatoes or other root crops such as beets and carrots.

Mr. Crane advised that Red Book suggests that the approximately 10% of the greenhouse space be used for the headhouse and that perhaps placement of the headhouse next to the hospital would provide a buffer zone and could blend with the hospital's architecture.

Ms. Sattler stated that Paul Olsen has volunteered to help with filing the paperwork for 501 C (3) status and could provide some of that work pro-bono.

Mr. Ozment suggested Denny Pearson as another resource for legal help in filing for 501 C (3) status as he recently completed such a filing for another group.

Mr. Ozment reported that Bob Gorman had loaned him some reference materials on greenhouses. He also stated that he would like to help Mr. Crane build the greenhouse model when the materials arrive. Peggy Reeve, a master gardener, was suggested as a person that should be invited to join SLFN.

The cold storage building on Katlian Street had been suggested as an alternative location for the community greenhouse, however the consensus of SLFN members was that this site would be better for a production greenhouse that might be able to generate funds to support the community greenhouse.

Mr. MacLane announced that he is seeking an entrepreneur to process up to 500 pounds of fish per week in the ANB Hall kitchen. This could help provide needed funding for the ANB. With commercial status, the ANB Hall kitchen has the ability to process up to 500 pounds of fish for resale per week. They would have to buy the fish directly from the fishermen.

Mr. Osborne announced that he and Mr. MacLane will be speaking at the Chamber of Commerce luncheon on Wednesday, February 4th at noon. The luncheon is held at the Westmark Hotel.