

Press Release: April 2011

The Brooklyn Queens Land Trust (BQLT) held its seventh Annual Membership Meeting on March 29, 2011.

The yearly business meeting is to report to the representatives of all its gardens the overall status of the not for profit organization's program and financials. The membership voted to add 3 additional gardens to the BQLT stewardship raising its total number of gardens from 34 to 37 gardens.

BQLT's President Demetrice Mills announced that the board has starting negotiations with Trust for Public Land (TPL), the owner of the land of the 37 gardens, to transfer the deeds of all of its gardens owned in Brooklyn and Queens to BQLT. Garden representatives greeted the announcement with excitement and enthusiasm. Demetrice added "Owning the land that we have been stewarding for so long would be a great accomplishment for the BQLT Board and its gardeners." We are looking forward to the challenge.

Andy Stone, New York City Program Director of TPL said that he is proud to work with BQLT and grateful for the good work of BQLT and all of the gardeners, adding "The idea of a gardener run organization is important and exciting." Both BQLT and TPL agreed that they would continue to work together.

An election was held for members and officers of the BQLT Board. Newly elected to the board for a two year term period were: Michael Bailey, Meg Fellereth, Kangel Moore, Jon Sloss, and Colleen Smallfield. Re-elected for two year terms were: Agnes Greene, Carl Green, and Irene Van Slyke. BQLT officers elected for a one year term period were Demetrice Mills, President; David Pratt, Vice President; Carl Green, Treasurer; and Irene Van Slyke, Secretary.

BQLT gardens are comprised of 31 Brooklyn Gardens and 6 Queens Gardens, combined they boast of more than 700 gardeners. BQLT's mission is to create a community of gardeners, to be a good steward of the open space properties that it will own, to educate and inspire people to become successful and environmentally responsible gardeners; and to support community involvement in community gardening.