

HOLDEN COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE MINUTES

JANURARY 26,2016

Mission Statement:

To educate and empower people of all ages & diverse backgrounds by creating a central place of wellness where anyone or everyone has an opportunity to develop or enhance their awareness of the nutritional value of local organic food, the importance of environmental stewardship, and reconnecting with nature all while recapturing a sense of community.

In attendance: Jess Bader, Tanya Lewis, Eileen Charboneau, Joanne O'Brien, Jessica Cosenza, Todd Miller.

Not In Attendance: Stephanie Goodwin, Anthony Renzoni

Discussion: discussed the Creamer property plot that expressed all of the poison ivy that Todd Miller detected through GPS data collection previously.

Minutes approved for 1/12/16

Committee members met with Elliot Tree & Kent Tree last week to assess poison ivy & obtain initial evaluations. DPW joined for initial mtg with Kent tree. Mtgs scheduled with Daves Tree & Busy Bee last week with Dpw Josh from Elliot tree to get estimate.

Kent and Elliot gave rough estimates, pending definitive boundaries from mtg with town mgr. Kent & Elliot proposed removing the 5-6 trees surrounded with poison ivy vines, ground Ivy & clearing the ground brush. Concern is root system, and Jess B. will follow up with town mgr/DPW about any possible work on their end.

Friday Stephanie and Jess B. met with Dpw to assess town compost and they explained where it is gathered from and how they process it. Committee agreed to the benefits of using town compost & will pursue a compost test.

Discussed: using gravel and preferably testing before using for parking

Jess B. emailed mass Horticulture to get some form of consultation on poison ivy experts.

Jess C. contacted Project Native, discussed using milk weed to help attract Monarch butterflies.

Jess C. also mentioned a grant offered by project native that may be ideal to inquire about.

Girl scout meeting: Jess C. & Jess B. at Emmanuel Lutheran Church to discuss community garden with daisy troop Girl Scouts. *Used poster & ballots* from holden days, talked about gardening and nature. What the girls were interested in seeing at garden, handouts given for saving nature. Spoke to leaders and stated any interest parents or the organizations had, were free to be involved.

Jess B. & Jess C. have follow mtg scheduled with Davis Hill staff next week to discuss DH site.

Jess C. met with Jed's who donated organic seedling mix.

Jess B. has proposed mtg with Town Mgr & DPW to determine irrigation abilities, boundary lines, DPW abilities, funding, etc.

Mentioned that we discussed Davis Hill wishlist last week, following up brainstormed.

Reached out to senior center stated we can place info for senior center by 2/10

Mentioned developing a togetherness with senior center and Davis hill students.

Mathew Riley parent from Dawson offered his contracting expertise to build fencing for DH site.

Todd discussed his connection with Maureen Power from Chandler Magnet possible option to interlock as a source of expertise "from garden of all ages".

Malea from Central Mass grown mentioned Rutland greenhouse is interested in getting involved.

Meeting adjourned 8:40.