

# **HOLDEN COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**May 13, 2019**

## **Mission Statement:**

The Holden Community Garden Committee is a volunteer organization working to provide and support Holden residents, individually and collectively, to grow food, flowers, fruits, and herbs on town land including the redeveloped property on Highland Street. Our efforts will enable residents to enjoy the beauty of our town while developing a sense of community through cooperative action, learning about sustainable and environmentally conscious gardening as well as ethical harvesting.

The Holden Community Garden Committee also exists to foster the education of the children of Holden through the support of community gardens in local schools and community groups. These gardens will help to develop the appreciation of future generations for the importance of agriculture and responsible environmental practices, and provide education and positive experiences through gardening and physical activity.

**In Attendance:** Marcia Hastbacka, Chair: Members: Jessica Cosenza, Gina Tutela, Mike Trigiano,

**Absent:** Sarah Edmonstone, Julie McCarthy

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm

## **AGENDA:**

Minutes of April 22, 2019

## **MOTION #1:**

**To approve 4-22-19 HCG Minutes as Amended**

**Motion voted and carried**

## **UPDATE ON GARDEN APPLICATIONS**

The 2019 Garden Applications have been posted on the Town of Holden website and Wendy and/or Abby will handle the completed applications as they come into the town office. Marcia has arranged for signage on the lighted board at corner of Main & Shrewsbury Sts advertising Garden plots are available. The posting will go until May 17<sup>th</sup>.

## **DPW**

Marcia and Gina met with Chris D. from the DPW to discuss plans for the coming season. Because of the DPW's workload, they will not be able to help with the spreading of wood chips, but will be able to drop off truckloads of the chips for us to spread on the paths between rows and the large area on either side of the gardens. They will be liming the plots as soon as the rains subside. We discussed getting a shed with the monies allocated in the FY 2019-2020 budget. Since the DPW has no monies available until July 1<sup>st</sup>, we will need to wait until then to get the shed. We discussed what type of shed we want and will do some research into the best type for our needs. Once we get all the tools from Fiskars, that will help to determine size needed. Marcia will ask the DPW to mow the remainder of the area (not being planted) to keep the weeds down

## **FISKARS ORANGE PROJECT**

Jess was contacted by the person in charge of the project and was told that the tools have not been sent out, but may possibly be sent this week. She was told that the gift card may have been sent. Marcia will reach out to the Town Hall to be on the look out for these items

## **VOLUNTEERS**

Jess is aware of a Holy Cross internship credit program that would have a Holy Cross student assist us in some of the work needed during the growing season. She will compile a list of tasks that an intern could perform for us and

## **HOLDEN COMMUNITY GARDEN MINUTES – MAY 13, 2019**

### **PAGE 2**

apply to be part of this program. We should also compile a list of tasks that we need to have done and post them on Facebook for any volunteers who want to assist us.

#### **DAVIS HILL SPIGOT**

Jess noted that the locked spigot (paid for by DH) is missing Marcia will ask DPW if they have it. The spigot need to be locked for safety & health concerns. (Sometimes, kids playing on the soccer fields will use this water to drink and it is not safe.)

#### **UPDATE ON DAVIS HILL-JESS COSENZA**

We've been busy at work on the garden! The Student Council Garden Committee planted seeds using the indoor greenhouses. They have been watering the seeds daily.

Steve, Troy and Courtney will take the same beds as they did last year. Steve is going to plant the three sisters. Troy and Courtney have not yet specified what they will be planting. I have shared the list of seeds we have available in case they are interested. That leaves two beds for us to transplant the plants we've started in the classroom. All we have to figure out is the rambling area. I believe we still have flower seeds if we need something to plant!

I checked back in with Steve regarding the soil testing. He hasn't done the testing yet so I would go ahead and order the soil amendments

Compost from Black Earth Compost. 20 bags = \$150. Leaves \$150 to further Amend soil, funds from the Holden Garden Club grant. Will have to discuss using the rest of the funds and sending a Thank You.

### **Secretary's Award for Excellence in Energy & Environmental Education-**

Ceremony at the state house took place Monday May 6th. Jessica attended.

Will have to present the school with the certificates and the \$100 will be mailed. Mr. Norton wants to call Landmark to take a photo op once this is all together.

**\*\*\*Water Cistern is full, but the spigot is not the locking spigot that was purchased last year.**

**Need to ask DPW what they did with the locking spigot (PURCHASED FROM SCHOOL FUNDING). Would like to put a sign on the tank that specifies "NOT FOR DRINKING"**

**Kids have asked if they could fill water bottles from the tank.**

Waiting to hear back on MassAg In The Classroom grant.

Seeds shared with Mayo as well as Worcester REC.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm.

Next meeting will be Monday, June 10, 2019 at 7:00 in the Starbard Building.

