

HOLDEN COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE

August 10, 2020

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: Jessica Cosenza, Chair; Members: Katie Brier, Julie McCarthy, Mike Trigiano, Gina Tutela; Community Members: Aleel Grennan, Tracy Acito

Meeting called to order at 6:32 pm.

AGENDA

The minutes of the July 13, 2020 meeting was reviewed.

Motion #1

To approve the 7-13-20 HCG Minutes

Voted and Approved.

Raised Bed and Site Maintenance Update

Group discussed current issues and needs:

- Raised beds still need completion of repairs. Email/text request to be sent again to Mike Kendrick with questions about a possible support beam to be added to each table.

Motion #2

To not plant in or add soil to tables until further support installed in the form of a cross beam. Motion by Michael Trigiano. Voted and approved by all members.

- All tools accounted for and available in the locked shed; wheelbarrow and rake to be added with purchase locally using portion of remaining funds from Fiskar Grant

Motion #3

To approve spending funds on wheelbarrow and rake.

Voted and Approved.

- Water levels are adequate presently
- Community volunteer available to meet on site to discuss weeding. Initial contact through Facebook message.

Motion #4

To approve Jessica to initiate email to be sent to the interested community volunteer, cc to Julie McCarthy to allow Julie to work with volunteers, organize meeting onsite, to outline areas that need to be weeded and discuss wood chips, and to demonstrate proper guidance on allowable activities onsite. Voted and Approved

Sign Project

Katye Brier presented drafts of some proposals she has been working on. She remains in contact with local sign companies to get quotes. 4'x6' sign considered in proposal, with further consideration of cost to still depend on size, lettering, colors, logo, other details. Members suggested discussion of enlarging font on "community" if cost/process allows. Discussion of "Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust" focus on grants for ornamental horticulture. Discussed ornamental features that may apply to proposal including but not limited to the sign project, a water feature (such as a fountain which serves as ornamental feature as well as sensory stimulation and supports natural wildlife), improvement of pathways for visitors, and ornamental perennials. Jessica and Katye to follow up through emails and draft proposal.

Community Harvest Update

Gina Tutela collected vegetables and herbs from the community garden members in July, and delivered to both the Holden Senior Center and the Wachusett Food Pantry. This was greatly appreciated and well received. Julie McCarthy reviewed that the Veterans Center allows donations to be dropped off on the 3rd Thursday of the month, and Abby's House Worcester allows donations on Tuesdays. Will continue to coordinate with members.

Girl Scout Project Update

Julie McCarthy presented a plan update: compost unit is to be installed by the end of the week, this will left side of the shed (no opposition); bridge to be constructed and installed by the end of November. Scout troop to continue working on weeding, leveling, fund raising, and decisions on proper walkway foot paths with attention to safety and accessibility. She will continue working on and supervising the projects. No request for community or committee assistance at this time.

Davis Hill Update

Katye Brier discussed updates: one family is actively gardening, besides her own. The garden water supply, raspberry patch and perennial garden continue to be doing well. No requests at this time for volunteers. Will reach out to principal Mr. Norton to see if he has considered using this as an outdoor space when school returns. Consider setting up a meeting or emails with Mr. Norton (depending on interest and availability) to offer support with improvements on site that may be needed prior to using the space for outdoor learning.

Next Meeting

Jessica will request the next meeting date of September 14 at 6:30pm, with advanced notice that this may have to change in consideration of some upcoming anticipated work commitments. Will request meeting outdoors at garden again, with request to town to see if a Zoom meeting might be available as a backup in case of rain.

Adjourned 7:15 pm