

HOLDEN COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE

December 16, 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: Tracy Acito, Katye Brier, Julie McCarthy Gina Tutela
Absent: Michael Trigiano

Meeting called to order at 7:08 pm.

AGENDA

The minutes of the November 17, 2020 meeting was reviewed.

Motion #1

To approve the 11-17-20 HCG Minutes

Voted and Approved.

Sign Project

Jessica shared the most recent update from John Woodsmall, who is awaiting a final proof, quote and purchase order. We are awaiting further updates and installation plans.

Soil Testing Update

Jessica presented an estimate of cost for the additions suggested by the soil testing report and Joel Betts from USDA. The 20 pounds of organic sulfur is est. at \$13.99 current local price at ACE, and 20 lbs of Langbeinite on Amazon is \$38.95 presently on Amazon.com. Fiskar gift card balance is currently \$127.42.

2021-2022 Budget Proposal Ideas

Referencing the emails from John Woodsmall, we anticipate a lean year for the garden budget. Budget proposals this winter would allow for planning 2022 garden improvements. We reviewed previous ideas as noted in the November minutes. All members agree that the committee's focus in 2021-2022 is to improve access, utilization and beautification of the garden to Holden residents. We further discussed ideas to improve public outreach, to notify the town residents about the availability of this site for their

leisure. Jessica will draft a proposal for the next meeting, may run some ideas by John Woodsmall, Anthony Renzoni and Geri Herlihy.

Grant Update

Jessica drafted and applied for a grant from the Holden Cultural Council, with help from Katye. The request was for funding seating areas, signage, and money to add compost to the soil. A total of \$1000 for improvements to the area was requested, with a plan to install features that will attract residents to the garden and allow the general public to visit and enjoy the site, as well as lend to soil improvements. Jessica and Katye will continue to work towards the application for funding through the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust in 2021. Katye shared a link by email for members to review previous successful projects.

2021 Application Updates

Reminder for all members to return their applications to the Town Managers office. Members discussed means to distribute the application information more widely. May reach out to school principals, churches, social media, etc.

Girl Scout Project Update

Julie updated the committee on the progress of the bridge project. The bridge is nearly finished and being worked on, should be finished by the end of this year and will be stored indoors until the better weather arrives. She reports that the mound of soil on site will be used to build a base at the bottom of the raised beds. There may be some soil left over for the plots.

Suggestions for future scout projects to be considered (including, but not limited to): tables, benches, bat houses, cold frames, potting table/area, sensory stimulation scavenger hunt.

Davis Hill Update

Katye has nothing to report at this time due to the remote teaching plan at the school.

Community Harvest Update

No collection this month. Last month Gina did bring a collection for the Thanksgiving distribution.

Next Meeting

Jessica will request the next meeting date of January 12 @ 6:00 pm. Will request a Zoom meeting.

Adjourned 7:40 pm