

HOLDEN COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE

January 12, 2021

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, Mike Trigiano, Gina Tutela

Absent: Julie McCarthy

Meeting called to order at 6:07 pm. Michael joined at 6:20 pm.

AGENDA

The minutes of the December 16, 2020 meeting were reviewed.

Motion #1

To approve the 12-16-20 HCG Minutes

Voted and Approved.

Sign Project

No updates from the DPW at this time. Jessica will reach out to John Woodsmall for an update.

2021 Budget Proposal

FY 2021-2022 Budget Proposal had been sent out for review prior to the meeting. Members of the committee all agreed that the items and estimates were in agreement with what had been discussed at prior meetings. \$1000 budget respectfully requested for added soil/compost, public attraction/outreach/accessibility. See attached. Once approved, Jessica will forward to John Woodsmall for consideration.

Motion #2

To approve the HCGC Budget Proposal FY 2021-2022

Voted and Approved.

Grant Update

Jessica has not heard anything back yet from the Holden Cultural Council.

Katye and Gina attended the online meeting for the Open Space Committee, during which they learned that there may be additional state funding opportunities to investigate. More information should be

available at the upcoming meetings. Katye and Gina are interested in participating in those meetings to stay informed and to represent the HCGC in discussion of conservation of open space in town, and Jessica will also try to attend as well as start communications with Glenda Williamson who heads the Open Space Committee.

Katye also found that the Worcester Garden Club has an upcoming Grant Cycle, for which an application is available. Jessica and Katye to review and attempt to complete an application on time, with the hope to expand funding available in 2021 for education and conservation demonstrations and opportunities on site.

Jessica and Katye continue to work towards consideration of the application for funding ornamental projects through the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust in 2021.

Social Media/Outreach

Katye would like to start an Instagram page for the HCG. She would design and manage. Can link back to FB page and Town Website. Jessica will email the Town Manager's office for review of guidelines and permission to proceed.

Motion #3

To allow Katye Brier to represent the Holden Community Garden on Instagram and manage content/posts in accordance with the town policy.

Voted and Approved.

Girl Scout Project Update

Julie McCarthy not able to attend. Jessica reported that Colleen McCarthy has completed the bridge and brought it to the site. Final installation will take place in the spring, and Julie will continue to work with the troop to advance installation of the butterfly/perennial garden. Photos and story were uploaded to Facebook this week for public acknowledgement.

Davis Hill Update

Katye requested an updated account balance and consideration to allow for soil testing to take place as soon as the weather conditions allow. There should be sufficient funds remaining both for testing and improvements, as Jessica noted that there was a previous grant for \$300 received from the Holden Garden Club for soil improvements 2 years ago, of which only about half was spent. Jessica will email Mr. Norton and Mrs. Johnson with a request to update us on remaining funds.

Community Harvest Update

Gina Tutela will continue collecting for the Wachusett Food Pantry. A Facebook post will be placed to invite the public to participate. Gina will be collecting this week, before 6:30 am Friday.

Old and New Business

Jessica sent out the Holden Community Garden Committee 2020 Report for review. Gina had one correction in the last paragraph, but the content otherwise was unanimously approved for submission to the Town Manager's office.

Liz Monahan of the Town Clerk's office has sent out the Conflict of Interest Laws and State Ethics Training. All members confirmed that this has been received and each member will complete and return their certificates to the Clerk's office.

Raised bed improvements are finished with completion of repairs, and beds are placed/stored under the first water tower at the site.

Jessica, Katye and Mark all have applications on file for plots in 2021. There looked to be some irregularities in formatting when these were printed from the online link. Jessica will follow up with Abi at the Town Manager's office and cc Katye regarding this, just to check for improvements in formatting available on the Town Website.

Next Meeting

Jessica will request the next meeting date of February 16 @ 6:00 pm. Will request a Zoom meeting.

Adjourned 6:43pm