

# HOLDEN COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE

March 16, 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, Julie McCarthy, Mike Trigiano, Gina Tutela

Meeting called to order at 6:04 pm.

## AGENDA

The minutes of February 16, 2021 meeting were reviewed.

### Motion #1

To approve the 2-16-21 HCG Minutes

Voted and Approved.

## Sign Project/DPW Update

Jessica reported that on March 2nd, John Woodsmall emailed Jessica to report that Franz was updating his draft and would submit a final proposal. On March 15th, John emailed news that Franz was retracting his offer to do the work, citing disagreement with the terms of payment. John was going to reach out to him again, or let us know about a different sign company to do the work. Await further information. Katye to followup.

Jess made a request to the DPW to place spigots on the tanks and place trash barrels onsite.

## Grant Update

Jessica has not heard anything back yet from the Holden Cultural Council. Tracy mentioned that the process is moving forward and we should hear something back soon.

Jessica and Katye shared the good news that we are being awarded \$500 by the Worcester Garden Club. The Town Managers office requests that all proposals be reviewed by Peter Lukes before submission in the future. At this time, an account has been established for the funds to be deposited. Abigail from the Town Managers office will be helping us to place Amazon orders for the laminator machine/materials, and plant markers. Katye and Jessica to followup on this. Chris DeMoranville will

work with us to order loam/compost/plant materials from local sources with established purchasing history with the town. Jessica to followup.

Jessica reached out to Joel at USDA to inquire about sourcing the Langbeinite and elemental Sulfur. He suggested the Hardwick Co-op, or Home Depot/similar big store. Jessica to followup.

#### **Motion #2**

**To allow Jessica to use some of the remaining funds from the Fiskars Grant (gift card) to purchase 15 pounds langbeinite and approximately 7.5 pounds elemental sulfur.**

#### **Voted and Approved**

Jessica and Katye continue to work towards consideration of the application for funding ornamental projects through the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust in 2021. The Letter of Intent would be due in July. As above, all proposals will be reviewed with the Town Managers office.

Katye, Gina and Jessica were unable to attend the most recent online meeting for the Open Space Committee. Jessica has re-shared the community survey, and also requested the ADA information from their files. Katye, Gina and Jessica are interested in participating in future meetings. Katye and Gina plan to attend the next meeting and represent the HCGC in discussion of conservation of open space in town. Jessica will maintain ongoing communications with Glenda Williamson who heads the Open Space Committee.

#### **Social Media/Outreach**

Katye posted a photo and write up on Mike for the Instagram page for the HCG this month. She will be featuring a Gardener of the Month. She will reach out to the Holden Garden Club to see if anyone in the community would like to be featured. Contributions can be emailed to Katye for consideration.

#### **Girl Scout Project Update**

No response from Marissa on requests for updates on her plans for the nature trail project. Julie will follow up to be sure we have the correct contact information, and to try to obtain further commitment from Marissa on the project.

#### **Davis Hill/School Updates**

\$280.28 remains available for the DH Garden. The majority of this was donated by the Holden Garden Club to improve the soil. Katye would like to move forward with testing; Gina and Jess agree to help with this. Jessica will reach out to Joel at USDA for assistance and official lab testing/further suggestions on improvements.

Katye reached out to Mr. Norton to let him know that seeds are available and the school is qualified to apply for the 2021 Holden Garden Club Grant Cycle. Jessica provided assistance to Tim Sweeten of Dawson to act as a liaison and reference on his project for a rain water collection unit which is being funded by a 2020 grant from Holden Garden Club. Seeds were offered to Mr. Sweeten as well. Jessica

reached out to Andy Hackett at Mayo School to offer and distribute seeds to his project as well. The WRHS Agricultural Club also was awarded a grant from the Holden Garden Club for improvements to their garden project at the school. Jessica will reach out to offer seeds to them as well.

Re: Grant from the Garden Club- Jessica proposed that if the DH teachers/staff are not planning to apply, we could design a project on their behalf for improvements in outdoor learning opportunities at the garden. Jessica, Katye, and Gina are going to brainstorm some ideas and review the application. Proposals would have to be approved by Mr. Norton.

### **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 hasn't heard back yet from Dale Hayden and Wayne Howard of the senior center, and 2 previous participants have not submitted applications as of yet.

Jessica reports that the Town Manager's office is hopeful that groups will be able to meet publicly in the open area of the garden. This will be offered to any residents or community groups needing to hold meetings in open spaces, if allowed by the town, with current Covid policies .

Jessica independently purchased some plants from the Worcester County Conservation District annual plant sale. If these do well, she will be donating some to the garden.

Gina reminded us that the Agricultural Committee has a Zoom Meeting planned for this coming Sunday. The flyer/information has been posted to the Facebook page.

Jessica mentioned that Kathryn Zichell of the Worcester County Conservation District offered advice regarding weed overgrowth around the rocks. Thick plastic/garden block can be placed down to smother. Julie and Jessica to take a look at this, and Gina is interested in helping as well. Mike suggested that we research PBA Free Garden plastic.

Tracy and Julie are meeting at the garden this coming Sat. AM to discuss the details of starting and holding a plant sale.

Earth Day is April 22. Jessica proposed that we plan an event in honor of this, asking residents and members to come to the site to help with clean up. We could offer seeds and coloring pages to be taken home as a give away/free gift. "Weed and Seed" title may be used. Date TBD.

### **Next Meeting**

TBD. \*Tracy had to sign off at 6:20, Julie at 6:40.

**Adjourned** 6:46 pm