

HOLDEN COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE

October 4, 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: Katye Brier, Julie McCarthy, Aleel Grennan, Mike Trigiano, Gina Tutela; Garden participants: Candy Graham, George Klicka

Meeting called to order at 5:34 pm Via Zoom.

AGENDA

The minutes of the Sept. 13, 2021 meeting were reviewed.

Motion #1

To approve the September 2021 HCG Minutes

Voted and Approved.

Fall Clean Up Event Oct. 30, 2021

Julie suggested that the event be scheduled from 10am-1pm

Motion #2

To hold the event from 10am-1pm.

Voted and Approved.

Julie will gather materials for scarecrow building and reach out to vendors from the Farmers Market to see if anyone with a permit would like to join us and sell goods that day.

Katye will create a flyer and post to social media, town, schools. Goal is to put this out by Oct. 15.

Task list: Clean up around rocks in Girl Scout area, weed out the loam pile, weed and add chips to the berry/fruit area, plant perennials from the purchase to be made using the remaining funds from the Worc. Garden Club grant.

Jessica to coordinate volunteers.

Fence Project Update

Gina and George have proposed a fence idea for the garden. The area to be fenced in has not been clarified, and Jessica brought up for discussion ideas about access for participants and DPW staff. DPW may need to be consulted before any definite perimeter is established, and we have not taken a vote yet to decide if the committee will move forward with this project. However, George presented his initial research to suggest that a 5 ft high fence could be constructed with metal stakes and wire roll fencing, with consideration for how and where to place gates, as well as added materials for gates, placement, sizes and number.

Jessica would have to consult with the DPW. We are not clear on when our budget decisions are due, and Katye voiced interest in comparing the benefits and costs of this project vs the sign project which has been paused due to cost and issues with vendors.

The issue was tabled with a plan for Jessica to clarify deadlines with the DPW.

Davis Hill/School Updates

Jessica, Katye and Gina had a Zoom meeting with Mr. Norton on Sept. 27. Notes were sent out before today's meeting for all to review. These will be attached and submitted. Mr. Norton has agreed that we can submit an application to the Holden Garden Club for funding for "seats, signage, and speaker".

Motion #3

To approve the writing and submission of a grant application to the Holden Garden Club on behalf of the Davis Hill School. Jessica to write the grant and have it approved by Mr. Norton before submitting. Voted and Approved.

Meeting Interruption:

Stephanie King signed on to the Zoom meeting to announce that this meeting needed to end abruptly so that the Board of Selectman could use the link for their meeting which was previously scheduled.

Stephanie had supplied this Zoom link without realizing the conflict. The next meeting will have to be arranged to continue discussion of ongoing issues, using a separate link.

Adjourned 6:14 pm