

HOLDEN COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE

March 21, 2022

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, Aleel Grennan, Gina Tutela, Julie McCarthy; Participants: Wayne Dodge, Emily Anguilo

Meeting called to order at 6:05 pm Via Zoom.

AGENDA

The minutes of the February 2022 meeting were reviewed.

Motion #1

To approve the February 2022 HCG Minutes

Voted and Approved.

Sign Project Update

Katye has reached out again to Sunshine Sign company. She is working on making contact with John Woodsmall and the representative from the sign company to get a Purchase Order in place.

Girl Scout Update

Julie McCarthy is working with the Girl Scout troops to introduce them to the garden projects including clean up and maintenance opportunities in the perennial garden/bridge area and in the wooded area to establish a walking trail. She will be setting up meetings at the site and making plans for clean up.

There is a troop that wants to be on the agenda for April to share their ideas. More information on that will follow when availability is confirmed.

Jessica offered to help with cleaning up around the rock area as well.

June 10 is the Holden Council for Girl Scouts, bridging ceremonies will take place in the garden. HPD will need to be informed of use of the space re: parking.

Conor Dillon has received a signature from Jessica on his project to show approval from the committee. Mr. Norton has asked that Conor reach out to him directly with ideas on funding.

Grant Updates

Katye has started researching the “Seed Money” and “National Garden Clubs” Grant programs. Michael Mazloff, former member and current participant through the “Vintage Vagabonds” group has voiced his intention to become a member of the committee again and help with securing grant money. We discussed intentions on use of grant funds. There is some interest in perhaps extending the garden to allow for an additional row of plots, which also may require an additional water collection unit.

Jessica also reported that she emailed Geri Herlihy for advice on fundraising opportunities. Ideas of a plant sale, yoga in the garden, paint parties in the garden were examples shared. No response from Geri, so Jessica will have to send a follow up email.

Davis Hill/School Updates

Jessica gave seeds to Aleel, plans are in place to start seed sewing in the classroom with Mrs. Duffy and Mrs. Piasano. Reimbursement should be available, receipts should be submitted.

Gina Tutela will be listed as the liaison to Davis Hill.

Re: Holden Garden Club Grant- Joel from the Worcester County Soil Conservation/USDA office has moved back to Michigan. Jessica reached out to Katherine Zichelle who still works at that office. Katherine will coordinate contact with another staff member at that office to plan on a soil health talk/hands on project with the students at Davis Hill.

Katye and Joe are planning to repair the K beds this spring and will check on the raspberry bed as well.

Community Harvest Updates

No new updates, but Gina will continue to be available for collections and donations to the Wachusett Food Pantry.

Old/New Business

The Year End Review is done and submitted to the Town Manager’s office.

Jessica announced that all the plots are full. Fertilizer and Compost guides were sent out to all participants. Jessica asks that participants email her with questions or requests for additional copies.

Michael Mazloff is planning to join the committee.

A clean up event will be planned for May 21.

Tables need to be secured before put to use. Jessica will ask volunteers to look these over and ask the DPW to advise.

Gina reported that the Holden Garden Club recently shared some information on “Asian Jumping Worms”. She will forward information for all to review.

NEXT MEETING: April 11 at 6:30pm via Zoom.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:44 pm.