

# HOLDEN COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE

April 11, 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, Michael Mazloff, Gina Tutela; Participants: Wayne Dodge, Mat Glavickas; Absent: Julie McCarthy, Mark Thorngren

Meeting called to order at 6:31 pm Via Zoom.

## AGENDA

The minutes of the March meeting were reviewed.

### Motion #1

**To approve the March 2022 HCG Minutes**

**Voted and Approved.**

## Budget & Sign Project Update

Katye shared her screen and discussed the mock up and proposals for the sign that Sunshine Sign has created with Community Highlighted/Enlarged. Gina expressed concern that "Community" still needs to be larger. Katye explained that the vertical orientation of the sign would not allow for further enlargement, but she could do a mock up of the sign in a horizontal orientation.

### Motion #2

**To approve time for Katye to create a comparison of horizontal and vertical orientations of the sign, with the word "COMMUNITY" enlarged.**

**Voted and Approved- horizontal orientation was preferred by committee members without any objections.**

Katye will move forward with John Woodsmall and Sunshine sign company to have this sign ordered and move forward.

## Grant/funding Updates

Michael Mazloff has officially regained his status as a committee member. He explained parts of the

process for establishing a 501C-3 non-profit status, which may expand options for grant applications. Jessica explained that Geri Herlihy announced in an email that we are approved for fund raising efforts if we would like to move forward with planning events, as an account has been established in the name of the garden for use on HCG projects.

Michael advised that a sub-committee may be useful in exploring what other local community gardens have done to raise money. Michael mentioned that Expansion Grants might be an option if we do decide to expand the garden.

Jessica announced that the garden applications are closed, but a waitlist is starting. There may be interest in expanding the garden in the coming year to allow more plots.

Katye reported that she researched our option for applying for National Garden Club grants, for which membership would be required.

### **Garden Opening Clean Up Event**

The date for the event this year will be May 21. Jessica reviewed the tasks and time of the event that occurred in 2021. That event was from 10am-1pm.

#### **Motion #3**

**To approve the May 21 opening clean up event to take place from 10am-1pm.**

#### **Voted and Approved**

Garden paths will be weeded and chipped. Jessica may need to get more wood chips. Compost system will be discussed in person. Wayne asked if he could add numbers to the bins to further define the use of these. This proposal was unopposed. Jessica offered to try to clean this up some, as there seem to be some materials placed in the wrong bins.

The perennial/scout community area needs further weeding, clearing, and laying of foundation/rock. Julie will be guiding this and Gina agrees that she will be helping with this as well. Others are welcomed to assist.

The standing tables have been assigned and still need corrections. The volunteers have not been available, but further outreach is pending. Jessica will reach out to the family assigned to the tables to explain the delays and discuss the need for improvements. Further fundraising may be necessary for materials.

Jessica will be reaching out to the schools for volunteers for the May 21 event.

### **Scout Update**

Julie McCarthy was unable to attend tonight, but wanted it noted that there is a troop interested in completing a clearing for a nature path through the woods. That troop would like to present their ideas at the next meeting. This proposal was unopposed.

Conor Dillon has been in touch with Jessica for a signature on his final plan which has been approved by the Boy Scout Organization. He needs help in reaching Mr. Norton as he has not heard back at all about funding, and he would like to move forward with his project of building tables.

Gina has agreed to act as the liaison to Davis Hill, and she will reach out to Mr. Norton regarding this matter.

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

Aleel reported that she worked with the Davis Hill 3rd and 5th graders to create mini-greenhouses for planting outdoors/late winter-early spring outdoor seed sowing. The 3rd grade project with Mrs. Duffy was completed in March with help from Aleel and Gina. The 5th grade will be assisted in April. Davis Hill has re-established a Garden Club with approximately 30 active members!

Gina announced that she has plans to try to clean the existing garden tables.

Jessica requested that Gina communicate with staff to find and place the sign, compost tumbler, bird bath, and tools. We would like to discuss bed maintenance more. The raised beds need improvements which may take funding to fix long term. We would like to know from the school staff and garden members if this is something that they are interested in. Jessica offered to be available for a meeting if the staff would like to discuss further.

### **Community Harvest Updates**

No new updates, but Gina will continue to be available for collections and donations to the Wachusett Food Pantry. Ethical Community Harvesting will be encouraged this year. Participating plot members will be asked to donate anything they may not need to use when ready for harvest.

### **Old/New Business**

Jessica offered a summary of the Holden Garden Club shared presentation on Asian Jumping Worms. These worms have been around for a lot longer than we are currently focusing on, and they likely present very little danger. They don't eat the plants, but instead they change the composition of the upper soil layer which may affect some superficial roots and affect plants trying to be established during warmer months. These worms don't like cool months, they prefer to be active in June/July/August. The soil may appear to be coffee ground in texture, and the worms will have rapid movements with a pale central belt. Monitor and try to remove. Cocoons look like small amber pearls. Putting down compost in cooler months and using coconut compost may be helpful.

Michael Mazloff is again welcomed back to the committee, and we look forward to working with him again. He is active in the "Vintage Vagabond" group and will be a standing participating member at meetings, along with Wayne Dodge. Wayne has been active in meetings and at the garden since joining the garden community. We welcome their involvement.

Next meeting May 9th at 6pm at the garden with a backup Zoom access to be used if weather does not allow for meeting in person outdoors.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:23pm.