

HOLDEN COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE

December 14, 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, Wayne Dodge, Julie McCarthy, Gina Tutela.

Meeting called to order at 6:23 via Zoom- alternate link provided to members and participants by email when initial link failed.

AGENDA

The minutes of the November 16, 2022 meeting were reviewed.

Motion #1

To approve the November 16, 2022 HCG Minutes

Voted and Approved.

BUDGET & GRANT PROPOSAL UPDATES

Town Budget proposal and addendum reviewed, has been submitted to the head of the DPW, the Town Manager's Office and Selectman Anthony Renzonni.

Michael discussed the Greater NE GrassRoots Foundation Seed Grant opportunity. The GrassRoot Fund Guiding Values discussed. Michael would like the group to review this further before moving forward with the application. Discussion tabled to the next meeting.

Additional Grant opportunities may be available if a collaboration with the High School becomes active. Aleel and Michael will work on drafting an agreement defining the collaboration and showing our active relationship with the school and students. The committee is unanimous in offering support to the school as they move forward with building a native pollinator garden and hope their students will participate in the irrigation system design and installation.

DAVIS HILL WINTER/SPRING PROJECTS

There is nothing currently announced at the school for winter after school sessions. Our committee may be able to host projects after school as previously discussed, but we are awaiting notice that this opportunity will exist in the winter/spring. Further discussion will follow at the January meeting. Gina will follow up at the property to see if the composter, bird bath and sign have been taken in.

COMMUNITY HARVESTING UPDATES

Gina is not available this month for bringing items to the food pantry.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Application and Ground Rules will be released in late January. We will update the ground rules to reflect clearer guidelines on organic fertilizer, use of the compost bins, and invasive plants that are prohibited onsite. Aleel and Katye will help with this update and we will try to get this out to the former participants and the town after the January meeting. First-come, first-serve basis will be followed with priority to those who have been past participants.

Jessica asked that she have the phone numbers for all committee members to update the contact sheet.

ADJOURNMENT: 6:53

NEXT MEETING: TBD- 2nd or 3rd Wednesday of January proposed, pending calendar reviews.