

HOLDEN COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE

March 22, 2023

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 present: Wayne Dodge, Aleel Grennan, Michael Mazloff, Gina Tutela; Selectman Tom Curran; garden participants George Klicka, Matt Glavickas, Anne Sadick, Thea and Stephen Lofgren; absent: Julie McCarthy and Katye Brier

Meeting called to order at 6:18

AGENDA

The minutes of the February 8, 2023 meeting were reviewed.

Motion #1

To approve the February 8, 2023 HCG Minutes

Voted and Approved.

2022 Year End Committee Report

Available for review.

Motion #2

To approve the 2022 Committee Report for submission to the Town Manager

Voted and Approved.

APPLICATION 2023 update

Established raised beds: Cora Browskowitz has requested one raised bed. Jessica reached out to her to confirm by email. If there is not another applicant, Mat Glavickas will take the other raised bed for use in addition to his ground plot. Mat hopes to apply for raised beds next year.

Current plots: All previous participants will be returning to their plots, and Don & Deb Flynn will take over plot #1.

New plot applications: we have 4 new applicants- Thea Lofgren, Stacy Urbanowicz, Anne Sadick and Steve D'Aquila. We are awaiting approval from the town regarding the budget to build out new plots in a no-till fashion in the area that was prepared last fall. Jessica initiated a discussion about funding this project as first priority, since we have the participants waiting and the other project (irrigation, see below) is not ready now for review of costs and budget discussion.

Motion #3

To approve the first installment of budget allocation to go towards expansion of added plots, and to

then continue to work with the high school on planning and funding the drip irrigation system.

Voted and Approved

IRRIGATION SYSTEM- COLLABORATION WITH WRHS

Aleel is working with the staff of the MakerSpace/Engineering Classes/Partnership program, but no new information has been shared. We are holding on for news from the school on details, but they have approved us to promote the project in the press. We will need the student design plans to create a material list and estimate cost before funding can be explored further.

BUDGET & GRANT PROPOSAL UPDATES

1. Holden Cultural Council Grant (\$500, Gardening for All) Jessica has also reached out to Jessica Chase of the Holden Cultural Council for an update on funding the MCC grant. This is a reimbursement model, so The Committee will have to ask the town to put in an order and pay for the raised beds up front. Discussion about the raised beds- Mat noted that the square footage of the model that Michael proposed (Jumbl Raised Canadian Cedar Garden Bed | Elevated Wood Planter for Growing Fresh Herbs, Vegetables, Flowers, Succulents & Other Plants at Home | Great for Outdoor Patio, Deck, Balcony | 49x23x30) is significantly less than the planting space allowed in the current raised beds. Jessica reviewed the history of how those beds were designed by a builder who is no longer available, costs were exceptionally greater than what we have available to spend, and the beds had to be rebuilt for stability and durability. That model will not be replicated. Jessica asked that each member present research ideas on raised beds for purchase, as well as those used at other community gardens, and report back at the next meeting for discussion and decision making. Tom Curran volunteered that he will discuss the payment and reimbursement with the Town Manager's office if necessary for clarification on the process.
2. Requests for fundraising/donations: Michael would like to explore finding a nonprofit group to support the garden. He will speak to Wayne Howard who directs the Friends of the Aging at the Senior Center, as well as the Worcester Environmental Regional Council. Anne Sadick has experience with this type of funding model as well and will work with Michael to explore options. Katie sent a message to suggest that we could consider having a plant sale during the Holden Town Wide Yard Sale. Julie will be consulted on this as she was in charge of this for the Girl Scouts, and she would know if they are planning to do the same. Tom suggested a table at the Holden Days event. Jessica mentioned that a previous attempt to do this was paid for out of pocket by the committee members and was not very successful as measured by return on that investment. Jessica will update the press release article to remove the "MakerSpace" name and the measurements of plos. That article will be sent out for release to the Landmark and T&G. It contains the link for donations to the garden as well.
3. Mass Grange, MassAg in the Classroom, Holden Garden Club all may be able to offer grants to the irrigation project once students are involved. National Honor Society volunteers may also be available for providing help on site.
4. Funding will have to be allocated for water costs. Meters will be installed. Jessica will speak to John Woodsmall.

DAVIS HILL WINTER/SPRING PROJECTS

There is nothing currently announced at the school for winter after school sessions. Max Tutela is ready to move forward but has lost access to the front of the garden due to the placement of the snowpile.

We will plan to use saved seeds for planting once the beds are built.

COMMUNITY HARVESTING UPDATES

Gina will be available. Ethical harvesting in 2023 was discussed and will continue to be encouraged throughout the growing season.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Michael Mazloff and his wife are to be awarded “The Good Neighbor” award at the senior center tomorrow evening. We congratulated them and thanked them for their service in the community. Jessica will email Aleel and Julie about seeds.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:40; **NEXT MEETING:** 4/13/23 at 6:15 in the Starbard Meeting Room