

HOLDEN COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE

June 14, 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, Michael Mazloff, Gina Tutela, Katye Brier; garden participants George Klicka, Matt Glavickas; scouts: Alison Grady, Max Tutela; absent: Aleel Grennan, Julie McCarthy

Meeting called to order at 6:18

AGENDA

The minutes of the May, 2023 meeting were reviewed.

Motion #1

To approve the May, 2023 HCG Minutes

Voted and Approved.

PLANT SALE RE-CAP

The cash collected at the plant sale, totalling \$340, is intended for use in creating new signage at the garden for plot numbers, informational signs, and stationary to send correspondence to donors. Katye Brier is our committee member managing these tasks. Jessica will check with the Town Manager's office to clarify how the money should be processed. Leftover plants have been donated to The Holden Garden Club, Davis Hill School Garden, and dispersed throughout the community and the HCG site.

PLOT ASSIGNMENTS/GARDENING FOR ALL UPDATES

All ground plots had been assigned, but one participant had to withdraw. Plot #14 is now available and has been paid for. Gina voiced that she would like to apply for this plot for family use. There is currently no waiting list for this plot.

Motion #2

To approve the Tutela Family to take over plot #14

Voted and Approved.

Mr. and Mrs. Glavickas have been assigned the second tall raised bed.

There are plants in the new raised beds that have been reserved for the Gardening For All program.

There was not an application submitted, and therefore we assume someone has taken this over

independently. All committee members will be monitoring the area to identify the person using these

raised beds and offer an application if appropriate for the program as granted through the Holden/Mass

Cultural Council. If no one is identified, we will take over use for the community and allow those with limited abilities to use these tables for recreational gardening. Michael will be promoting the Gardening For All program at Checkerberry, Colony Homes, and through the Senior Center.

We must follow the guidelines created through the application submitted to the Cultural Council and report back to the Council on appropriate, successful use of funds.

Michael is planning a project at Checkerberry to provide education on gardening techniques, and inform the residents about The Community Garden and the programs available. He has obtained seeds to share and would also like plant donations if anyone has plants available to share.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Girl Scout Bridging Ceremony was moved to the senior center due to rain.

An Opening Ceremony is still being considered. Members suggest that this could coincide with Holden Days. Jessica will check with the Town Manager's office to see if the HCGC can participate in Holden Days with a spot at the main event, as well as plan for an Opening Ceremony at the HCG.

Yoga in the garden may be planned for August. This could be part of the Opening Ceremony, or a separate event. Jessica will follow up with Aleel to check on instructor availability.

SCOUT PROJECTS AND EVENTS

Max is approved to move forward with his rebuilding project at Davis Hill. He is starting a Go Fund me immediately. The Committee will use the social media pages to promote this and will further lend support as needed. Max will start construction after the school year ends. All established plants will be carefully removed and placed back into the new raised beds. Old materials will be recycled for other projects or disposed of if no longer suitable for use. He will update us on construction dates.

Alison Grady presented her ideas on her Gold Award Girl Scout project. She proposed the creation of a small outdoor playspace in the form of a natural playground. Committee members discussed possible sites on the property including the area in front of the rock wall at the front of the property, the area at the back of the property near the opening to the Puny Path, and an added walking loop in the woods that would join the established path. Jessica will check with the town regarding any liability issues, and Alison still needs to get approval through her advisor and the Girl Scout Committee.

Motion #3

To approve Alison Grady to move forward with planning a Natural Playground at the Holden Community Garden for her Gold Award Girl Scout Project.

Voted and Approved.

IRRIGATION SYSTEM/WATER USE

No updates have been received from the school; the school year ends next week, but we also had a commitment to establish a plan in the fall. Michael wonders if we should approach the DPW to get involved. Jessica will reach out to the DPW to better understand how we can collaborate with the school and the DPW to have the best plan.

Wayne will act as liaison to the DPW for any onsite issues that require a committee member to be present when the DPW is working on site.

Jessica will ask for an update on the cost of water use thus far. Cisterns should be used before opening spigots if water is available.

DAVIS HILL UPDATES

There is nothing currently requested from the school. There is a grant available through The Holden Garden Club for any projects the school would like to explore.

COMMUNITY HARVESTING UPDATES

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

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Michael Mazloff is still interested in exploring establishing a fiscal intermediary vs 501C3 status. Jessica will follow up with Tom Curran on this.

Katye is ready to submit an order for signage and is just waiting on approval of funds through the Town Manager's office.

Matt brings up the issue of the condition of the road access to the site. While we are aware that the access road gets attention and grading a few times throughout the year, there is concern that the present condition is deteriorating. There are so many cars rushing to the fields and school, the dust is an air quality hazard and the speed is a physical danger. We would strongly be in favor of seeing that road paved with speed bumps. Jessica will present this to the DPW for followup.

There is scrap wood available through Woodmeister on Industrial Drive which can be cut to size and used for stakes. Gardeners are welcome to explore this, Katye will be looking into this for the sign postings.

We are in need of wood chips and a trash container. Jessica will reach out to the DPW for these materials. Carry In/Carry Out is always encouraged.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:28; **NEXT MEETING:** July 19 at 6:15 at the Holden Community Garden.