

## **HOLDEN COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**September 10, 2019**

### **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:** Marcia Hastbacka, Chair: Members: Jessica Cosenza, Gina Tutela, Mike Trigiano, Julie McCarthy  
Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm

### **AGENDA:**

#### **EAGLE SCOUT PROPOSAL**

Brett Jatrinski of Troop 175 in Holden was invited to present his proposal for a kiosk sign that will provide general information about the Community Garden. He will be raising all the monies to build the structure and estimates that the project should be completed by the end of October. The committee discussed location of the kiosk and where it should be placed for maximum visibility. There will be some type of Plexiglas covering to protect any information posted. The committee is excited to have this project undertaken by Brett as this was on our wish list. (His Eagle Project presentation is attached on last page to these minutes.)

#### **MOTION #1**

**To approve Brett Jatrinski's Eagle Scout Project**

**Voted and Approved.**

We thanked Brett for his interest in the Community Garden and resumed our agenda

Minutes of August 5, 2019 HCG Meeting

#### **MOTION #2:**

**To approve 8-5-19 HCG Minutes as corrected**

**Voted and Approved**

### **FISKARS UPDATE**

Jess is working on getting a new gift card from Fiskars. All staff in the Town Manager's Office have been alerted that we should be getting a new card to be sent by FedEx.

### **UPDATE ON DPW**

Marcia presented the tool shed that the DPW recommended and we all agreed that it would be large enough to hold all our tools. Since we do not have a build crew to assemble the shed, Marcia will ask if the DPW will do that for us. She will also ask that the DPW get some of the accessories that are available i.e. racks for tools, pegboard, and other tool holders that will be able to house the 32 tools that Fiskars sent to us.

### **UPDATE ON SIGNAGE**

Jess has been in contact with Monty Tech about signs, but since school has just started, has not heard back yet.

### **UPDATE ON DAVIS HILL**

Jess presented a summary of Davis Hill activities during the summer. (See report on following page.)

**DAVIS HILL GARDEN**

Receiving support from Katye Brier who is also collecting and Harvesting in the community garden and bringing to the Senior Center.

Spaghetti supper- looking for donations Kirsten Smith. Sept 27

Mass aginclassroom Grant: Working on getting logo

Submitting copy of notice

Need to confirm summary by Oct. 1 (submitting copy of email, no response, forwarded to MAC [info@aginclassroom.org](mailto:info@aginclassroom.org))

Balance sheet uploaded to the drive: \$492.38

Does not show the the Environmental Excellence monetary award was ever received - email sent

\$1593.80 was from donations. 500.00 and 300.00 from Holden Garden Club. 120.00 from Mass Agriculture.

Soil amendments- balance remains from Holden Garden Club (\$150).

Continue soil amendment project next planting season.

Dawson- 5th grade teacher Tim Sweeten built a garden and was talking about getting plans together for a sustainable water source. I discussed the rainwater collection systems that we have in place and sent him links to emails for the upcoming Grant Cycles for MassAg and Seed Money

Seeds- none from ACE hardware at end of season this year

Signage- Sent follow up email to Dan Starr

Usage of beds- Grade 5 (Pisano), Grade 1 (Shuro), K (Benoit), plus pollinator and berry gardens as well as bird bath supporting the Wildlife classroom project

WRHS Agricultural Club- Mr. Chandonnet and Mr. Whitmore, possibly contact for collaborative support at HCGC site

Kate Marie Gervais- USDA Soil Conservationist partnership with Growing Places in Leominster, and I will be conducting a workshop on the use of cover crops in the garden. Sept 14 in Leominster- will be talking about soil health and selecting relevant cover crops for a smaller space, and we will be seeding some of the plots

**Scout Projects being Supported**

Colleen McCarthy- Bridging the Community Together. Includes bridge, community pollinator perennial garden, and composting system. Gold Award Project Proposal Submitted to Girl Scout Council.

Anna Maruka Hoak- A Walk Through Nature's Classroom. Includes trails, signage, connection from school to community garden. Gold Award Project Proposal Submitted to Girl Scout Council.

Brett Jatrinski – [brettj894@gmail.com](mailto:brettj894@gmail.com) Presenting for consideration of information Kiosk.

## **HOLDEN COMMUNITY GARDEN MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 10, 2019**

### **Page 3**

The remainder of the meeting was a discussion of old and new business

Mike mentioned that Jungle Jim's will have seeds for us. This will help as ACE does not have any seeds left from this season.

Brett will need to have a decision on location of his kiosk by the beginning of October. While the 2 Girl Scout projects still need final approval from the Girl Scout Council (Julie is certain that approval will come any day), they would like to meet with one of the committee members to determine where their respective projects will be located. Jess and Julie will coordinate with Brett, Colleen, and Anna to meet with them onsite around the 1<sup>st</sup> of October to determine proper locations.

A discussion ensued about the Ag Club at Wachusett Regional High School – they have a garden onsite at the high school. Julie will contact WRHS to see if any students – either in the Ag Club or National Honor Society would like to get involved with the Holden Community Garden.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 16 at 7:00 pm at the Starbard Building.

**Note: Brett Jatrinski's Eagle Project is attached on final page of these minutes.**



Brett Jatrinski  
Troop 175, Holden  
9/10/19

### **Eagle Project Idea**

My project will consist of a kiosk sign that will provide general information located at the town garden by the back fields by Davis Hill Elementary School. The point of the sign is to post any events or information that can be seen by many people at any point during the day(or night). Along with the sign it will also be surrounded by mulch and flowers to make the area more appealing and overall seen by more people.

- The project is projected to cost anywhere between \$100.00 and \$150.00 dollars for all the lumber and mulch/flowers
- The project will be funded by a can drive that is organized though my troop and will be held at the Immanuel Lutheran Church where our weekly meetings are held at and possible donations of flowers and mulch from Jed's hardware where I work

### **How this will accomplished?**

- My troop consists of roughly 16 kids that would be happy to help me complete such a task along with family and friends.... There will be no shortage of hands to complete the project in a timely manner
- I also have a decent amount of experience with various power and hand tools to complete the sign and have the equipment at the ready

### **Estimated Timeline**

I believe that the project will only take 1-2 weekends to complete come actual build time and since a build of this sort must be accomplished before the ground freezes I am planning on starting and finishing the project in october at some point within the first three weeks of that month. The project will be done on a Saturday(s) Oct. 12th or the 19th and can be moved to a Sunday on either of those weekends depending on people's availability.

I would like to say thank you for giving me the opportunity to do such a great project for the town in an area that I am very familiar with in helping me hopefully complete my end goal of Eagle Scout by this upcoming winter.