

HOLDEN COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE

November 13, 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 M. 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: Katye Brier, Julie McCarthy, Mike Trigiano, Gina Tutela.

Absent: Jess Cosenza

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.

AGENDA

The minutes of the October 16th meeting was reviewed.

Motion #1

To approve the 10-16-19 HCG Minutes

Voted and Approved.

Welcome to Katye Brier

Katye Brier was welcomed as a newly appointed member of the Holden Community Garden Committee. Katye will assist Jess with Davis Hill garden meetings and projects.

Plans for Tables – Mike Kendrick

Mike presented plans for raised bed tables that have been built at Seven Hills. The tables built there were made of pressure treated lumber and it was suggested that the legs & base could be pressure treated, but the bed itself be made of cedar or cedar lined. These tables at Seven Hills were designed and built by a Boy Scout who earned his Eagle Scout. Mike will ask the staff person who has used these table for 3 years if she has any recommendations that might improve the original design. We discussed how many to build and where to place them. Mike will work up and estimate for each table and that should determine how many can be built. Mike will get materials from monies on the Fiskars gift card. We plan to leave enough monies available for any additional tools & material we may need for next spring. Mike is planning to assemble the tables in his basement over the winter, so they will be ready to go early next spring. Mike will coordinate this project with Jess.

Update on DPW and Storage Shed

Marcia will contact the DPW for an update on when to expect the storage shed.

Update on Girl Scout and Boy Scout Projects

Julie reported that both Girl Scout projects (Colleen's Bridge and Anna's Walking Trail) have been approved by the Girl Scout Council Office. Brett's Kiosk has been installed and he will be putting signage on the top of the kiosk.

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Update of Davis Hill

Below are notes from Fall 2019 Meeting attended by Jess, Katye and Gina.

Davis Hill Garden: Fall 2019 Meeting Notes:

Ongoing support onsite and in HCGC meetings from Gina Tutela and Katye Brier. Both attended the meeting, as well as Jessica Cosenza, Mrs. Pisano, and Mr. Norton. Katye is interested in starting a Newsletter to reach more families at the school with info about the garden.

Spaghetti supper- spoke to Kirsten Smith, she had the idea of using more of the beds for planning, planting and harvesting with intention of using more veggies in the prep for spaghetti supper (they did use some this year). Mr. Norton said that he will look into this. If approved, would take a group of parents to organize and tend over the summer in order to harvest and prep in time for the event. Contribution would not satisfy all needs, but would be helpful and kids could be involved.

Mass aginclassroom Grant: books and bags distributed to the school. Mr. Norton was advised that we need photos and a write up to send back to the donors. Photo received. Jess will send an email to MassAg thanking them for their contribution.

Balance \$492.38

Does not show the the Environmental Excellence monetary award (*RECEIVED- WE DID GET \$100 TO MRS. PISANO)

\$1593.80 was from original donations. 500.00 and 300.00 from Holden Garden Club. 120.00 from Mass Agriculture Grant (*Jess- still needs to submit for reimbursement). Soil amendments- balance remains from Holden Garden Club (\$150). Continue soil amendment project next planting season. Mrs. Pisano to check with 4th grade teachers to see if they are still interested. Would like to see some follow up on initial pH testing and then a plan for soil amendments in Spring. Would involve Scientific Method, could involve research/design/engineering, and more of the curriculum requirements, including composting (Compost was added in the spring).

Composting- will continue in Mrs. Pisano's class and with help from student council. May want to move the tumbler for the winter so that it can be accessed easier once the snow falls and gets plowed. School wants to do more recycling. Will tie the projects in together for demonstration of Environmental Stewardship.

Earth Day- discussed planning a celebration/event after April Vaca on a Monday during the "double special" block at the school.

Signs- need to follow up with Monty Tech. Sent email to Dan Starr.

Dawson- 5th grade teacher Tim Sweeten- haven't heard back from him.

Seeds- follow up with Mike on any from Jungle Jims. The school has some saved.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Next meeting will be December 4, 2019 at 7:00 pm at Starbard building.