

HOLDEN COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE

May 14, 2020

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: Jessica Cosenza, Chair: Members: Katye Brier, Julie McCarthy, Mike Trigiano, Gina Tutela
Guest: Mike Kendrick

Meeting called to order at 6:04 pm.

AGENDA

The minutes of the February 26, 2020 meeting was reviewed.

Motion #1

To approve the 2-26-20 HCG Minutes

Voted and Approved.

Garden applications, updates, plot availability

Jessica announced that beds #7, 8 are still open/available, as well as the raised beds (to be installed). Julie McCarthy will reach out to the churches to announce the opportunity to participate and how to apply for remaining plots. Jessica contacted Louise at the Senior Center who put a notice in the news letter, as well as Jay at the Holden Community TV, who is running a slide to share information about this as well on local TV. Jessica will email out to the committee a contact list which includes an update of contact information for plot renters, committee members, town employees available to advise/assist, volunteers (current and past).

Raised Bed Update

Mike Kendrick joined the meeting to show his work. The 2 beds are completed, aside from the legs which will be installed onsite. All materials were purchased with the funds from Fiskars (Visa Card, \$1000 beginning balance). So far, the Visa Card has a \$363.04 remaining balance. Mike still has a few items to purchase and will also use some of the remaining funds to purchase replacements for the screens which sit on top of the cisterns. There is a community volunteer who will try to get to the site this weekend with a small tractor to level out and spread the stone (Bob Parker of Parker Equipment). Mike advised that we rake the chips off of this area to allow the ground to settle more consistently under the stones, as well as spread a path towards the cistern to make the area more accessible.

Girl Scout Project Update

Julie McCarthy is awaiting further clearance from The Girl Scout Counsel, as well as the May 18th target for the possible lifting of some of the Massachusetts restrictions on gatherings due to Covid 19. She acknowledged a plan to have a few scouts working at a time, maintaining social distancing. She will continue working and supervising the projects. Julie will follow up with Anna Maruka on the Nature Trail project. Anna may not be completing this as planned. If she confirms that she is no longer available, Julie will see if another upcoming Girl Scout wants to take over the project.

Davis Hill Update

Discussed ideas on pulling up some of the mint, as well as follow up with Mr. Norton on use of the garden/maintenance during the shut down. We are waiting to hear if the Wachusett Superintendent will allow the site to be used by families independently this summer. Jessica will email Mr. Norton, and Katie will be the contact person for projects onsite.

New Business

Weeds on paths are very resilient. Will try a Sign Up Genius to organize help to lay out cardboard and then spread chips on all walking paths.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4FA4AD2AA7F94-chipping>

Katie will start a project to organize ideas and options on signage for the site. Considerations for options, funding, donors, etc. will be shared at upcoming meeting.

Next Meeting

Jessica will request the next meeting date of June 11, 2020 at 6pm. Assume Zoom meeting unless notified by town of other options.

Adjourned 6:37pm