

HOLDEN COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE

July 13, 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: Katie Brier, Julie McCarthy, Mike Trigiano, Gina Tutela; Community Members: Aleel Grennan, Tracy Acito

Meeting called to order at 6:36 pm.

AGENDA

The minutes of the June 11, 2020 meeting was reviewed.

Motion #1

To approve the 6-11-20 HCG Minutes

Voted and Approved.

Raised Bed and Site Maintenance Update

Group discussed current issues and needs:

- Raised beds need re-evaluation for stability. Email request to be sent to Mike Kendrick with questions about a possible support beam to be added to each table.
- "Action Hoe" is available in the locked shed
- All on-site tools will be kept in the locked shed. Lock code to be emailed out to the participants
- Water levels are adequate presently with recent rain and fill from HFD/DPW cooperation.
- Michael volunteers to again spread food grade diatomaceous earth on all vegetation to reduce the problem of potato bugs. Jessica will reach out to Brian Dale to support his workplace if they supply this product.

Motion #2

To approve spending funds on diatomaceous earth as an organic means of pest control.

Voted and Approved.

Motion #3

To approve Michael Trigiano to spread diatomaceous earth to all plots again and as needed.

Voted and Approved.

Girl Scout Project Update

Julie McCarthy presented a plan update: compost unit is being worked on and should be installed prior to the end of August, this will be installed next to the shed (no opposition); bridge to be constructed and installed by the end of November. Scout troop to continue working on weeding, leveling, fund raising, and decisions on proper walkway foot paths with attention to safety and accessibility. She will continue

working on and supervising the projects. No request for community or committee assistance at this time.

Davis Hill Update

Katye Brier discussed updates: one family is actively gardening, besides her own. The garden water supply, raspberry patch and perennial garden are doing well.

Sign Project

Katye Brier presented drafts of some proposals she has been working on. She remains in contact with local sign companies to get quotes. Cost will still depend on size, lettering, colors, logo, other details.

Motion #4

To allow a vote tonight at the meeting on the drafts presented by Kate to allow her to narrow and define her discussions with the sign company.

Voted and Approved.

Katye then presented several options for the group to choose from, allowing discussion and opinions of each of the well designed drafts that she presented.

Motion #5

Unanimous approval of the design as presently used on the temporary sign, (with suggestions to consider enlargement and placement of the word "community", and artistic discretion to Katye to work further on the logo.

Voted and Approved.

Discussed funding which needs to be clarified with John Woodsmall. Jessica to reach out again by email. Briefly reviewed that there are some possibilities for grant funding if necessary. Jessica and Katye will research further. Temporary sign is in place (lawn staked sign at Rt. 31), created and donated by Christina Dale of Holden.

Community Harvest Update

Julie McCarthy has sent an email to follow up with representatives from the Holden Senior Center, Abby's House (Worcester), Worcester Veterans Shelter, and the Wachusett Food Pantry. Jessica and Gina available to provide harvest and transport assistance.

Next Meeting

Jessica will request the next meeting date of August 10 at 6:30pm. Will request meeting outdoors at garden again, with request to town to see if a Zoom meeting might be available as a backup in case of rain.

Adjourned 7:06 pm