

HOLDEN COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE

June 11, 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

Meeting called to order at 6:07 pm.

AGENDA

The minutes of the May 14, 2020 meeting was reviewed.

Motion #1

To approve the 5-14-20 HCG Minutes

Voted and Approved.

Garden application updates, plot availability and outreach

Jessica reviewed that raised beds are installed, but not yet applied for, and plots #7, 8 are still open/available.

Group discussed options to continue to do more outreach, or allow current garden participants to take a second plot if they so choose, and use raised beds for community harvesting for donation.

Julie McCarthy noted that she did complete outreach to the churches to announce the opportunity to participate, but never heard back. Jessica confirmed that Senior Center newsletter did post the information, as well as local TV.

Motion #2

To approve the the committee to close applications at this time, and allow beds to be planted as second plot for current participants to use (first come, first serve), and work together to plant and harvest the raised beds for donation to local organizations.

Voted and Approved.

Raised Bed and Site Maintenance Update

Visa Card has a \$363.04 remaining balance.

Group discussed current issues and needs:

- Raised beds need compost/soil amendments and seeds
- Group would like to purchase an "Action Hoe"
- Chips to reduce weeds are being laid out, progress continues

- Michael volunteers to donate and spread food grade diatomaceous earth on all vegetation to reduce the problem of potato bugs. All gardeners were made aware of this proposal prior to this meeting and were invited to attend through Zoom link for Q&A
- Gina mentioned concerns and group agrees that there is an issue with footing/leveling on the walking/driving path next to the raised beds
- Water levels are very low, rain has been scarce. Outreach to DPW for water fill from HFD sent last week, not yet replied.

Motion #3

To approve spending funds on organic compost bags to amend the raised bed soil, as well as action hoe.

Voted and Approved.

Motion #4

To approve Michael Trigliano to spread diatomaceous earth. He declined funding at this time.

Voted and Approved.

Motion #5

To allow members to meet with Gina individually on site to discuss issues with leveling, further follow up at next meeting.

Voted and Approved.

Girl Scout Project Update

Julie McCarthy has received clearance from The Girl Scout Counsel to continue work on site with scouts following Covid 19 guidelines. She reports that a few scouts have been working at a time, maintaining social distancing. She will continue working and supervising the projects.

Davis Hill Update

Katye Brier discussed that 3 families came and picked up mint. The garden will be used by families independently this summer, with plots assigned to those who volunteered. Katye has been communicating with individual families, and she will continue to be the contact person for projects onsite. The remaining open beds were discussed.

Motion #6

To approve Katye to use remaining beds as she feels is appropriate through the summer, for adequate maintenance which will be supported by the committee, as well as additional planting which may be donated to community groups when available.

Voted and Approved.

Sign Project

Katye Brier is drafting some proposals and working with local sign companies to get quotes. Cost will depend on size, lettering, colors, logo, other details. Discussed placement and funding. Katye will continue with this project, and Jessica will reach out to DPW to see what they are doing with signs around town/get permission to explore further vs. have DPW directly involved, and find out how close to the road we can place a sign (if any frontage restrictions). Temporary sign will be made (lawn staked sign) by Christina Dale of Holden, voluntarily. Katye to follow-up with Christina and will cc: Jessica.

New Business

Jessica has been in contact with representatives from the Holden Senior Center, Abby's House (Worcester), Worcester Veterans Shelter, and the Wachusett Food Pantry. Plan to donate excess crops, as well as intentional community harvesting of raised beds and some at school. Requested volunteers to coordinate. Gina and Julie volunteer, and all voice support. Jessica will email out the information of the contacts she has made so far.

Next Meeting

Jessica will request the next meeting date of June 13, 2020 at 6:30pm. Will request meeting outdoors at garden, with social distancing, if town will allow. All in favor.

Adjourned 6:47pm