

## HOLDEN COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 23, 2017

### Mission Statement:

**To educate and empower people of all ages & diverse backgrounds by creating a central place of wellness where anyone or everyone has an opportunity to develop or enhance their awareness of the nutritional value of local organic food, the importance of environmental stewardship, and reconnecting with nature all while recapturing a sense of community.**

**In attendance:** Members: Jessica Cosenza, Marcia Hastbacka, Tanya Lewis, Michael Mazloff  
Geri Herlihy – Liason to Board of Selectmen

Meeting called to order at 6:41 p.m.

### Agenda

#### Minutes:

December 16, 2016 Meeting

**Motion #1: To approve the minutes of the December 16<sup>th</sup> meeting**

**Voted and carried.**

#### Davis Hill Update

**In an effort to be accurate and not have any omissions, the updates for Davis Hill presented by Jess C. will be added to the minutes of this meeting.**

#### December Garden Meeting @ Davis Hill 12/21/16

Projects- compost in classrooms (Grade 5- Ms. Watts), Ntl. Wildlife (Jay to Give \$20, Nicole to submit), Project After School (Feb./March)

Water Tanks UPDATE: Ryan Mouradian (rmouradian@holdenma.gov) sent email indicating that the valves will be okay if left open, and town will replace if damage occurs due to winter wear

Grant Updates (\$343.71 remaining): 1. \$500 from Holden Garden Club- purpose to build a water collection system. Mrs. Austin's class may be involved. Requires confirmation of receipt of funds as well as outreach to community for design and building assistance.

2. Annie's Grants- Application submitted December 4th (see needs list below). 3K and 5K grants available. Winners notified in Feb., all others notified in March.

#### Needs List:

wheelbarrow/garden cart  
seating/workstation areas  
learning materials for students and teacher reference  
workshop opportunities for staff and student  
Soil testing  
Seeds & compost/soil amendments

Winter Outreach- Andy Hackett, Senior Center, Boy Scouts, Technical Schools, College programs. Holden Christian Academy (followup). Mass Ag In the Classroom (emailed). Teacher interest: Jay to send email and Kindergarten bed to be built in the Spring

Mass Hort School Garden Conference Feb. 23, 2017 (\$60 pp)

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Davis Hill Update (Cont.)

Plant Sale- does not fit with the goals of the garden at this time.

Spring Planning (banner, planting...) March 22nd All School meeting to promote garden- slide show discussed. Ms. Watts to upload photos to G drive for Jess C. to organize.

March 29th PTA- share update

April Arts and Science Night

Next Meeting Feb 1st 8AM. Guests invited for Garden Planning Advice.

Jess C. also distributed a flyer concerning the School Garden Conference to be held February 23<sup>rd</sup> – see Mass Hort. Conference in her notes.

### **Mayo Update**

Tanya will reach out to Andy Hackett just to touch base and see if he needs any assistance from the committee.

### **Highland St Update**

A discussion ensued concerning the progress and plans for the Highland St. property.

Stumping & lot preparation – Geri will check on the monies that should have been left over from the work done by Elliot Tree. (They were paid for a portion of work that was never completed.) This is a follow up from Jess P's inquiry to John Woodsmall about being able to use any remaining monies to remove the rocks and tree stumps in the spring.

Budget – FY 2017 – Our budget was submitted under the DPW's proposed budget and it will be reviewed by FinCom. We will not know if approved until all budgets have been submitted for Town Meeting.

Trails – Since the trails, etc, were not started this fall, and Liam Sullivan's family may have moved, Tanya will ask Jess P. for Liam Sullivan's contact information. He may be able to provide the name of another Boy Scout who would be interested in this project, or the name of a Scoutmaster who could assist.

### **Planning for 2017**

Michael suggested that we all submit a plan for what we would like to see at Highland St., since we are not "locked in" to the huge butterfly garden that was proposed. We should be thinking long term as to sustainability, maintenance of the area, community appeal, etc. It was suggested that each of the members work on a plan – email it to all members - do not discuss via email – and just send your plan. All plans, ideas will be discussed at next meeting. Also discussed was planting of some apple trees in the front section of the lot.

### **Recruitment of new members**

No new interested people have come forward. It was suggested that we contact the Senior Center to recruit as well as someone from the Agricultural Committee.

At 7:46 pm, Tanya left the meeting.

### **Rice School**

Jess was contacted by Steven Aquila (through Stephanie Goodwin) who has some residents of Rice School Condominiums interested in developing a small garden of 4 individual plots. Jess will follow up with him and ask if he might want to serve on our committee. We will also need to inquire if the section of land he wants to use is town land. We will contact Peter Lukes to advise as to town's position on this.

**Next meeting was tentatively scheduled for February 15 at 6:30.**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm**