

HOLDEN COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE

October 11, 2023

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 harvesting.

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 present: Katye Brier, Julie McCarthy; Gina Tutela, Aleel Grennan, Michael Mazloff, Wayne Dodge; garden participants: Teddy Lofgren, George Klicka

Meeting called to order at 6:18

AGENDA

The minutes of the September, 2023 meeting were reviewed.

Motion #1

To approve the September, 2023 HCG Minutes

Voted and Approved.

EXPANSION PLAN

The members present at this meeting walked the grounds to assess for uniformity of the plots that are currently present, as well as to begin plans to expand to 23 plots. There was discussion about the layout of the third and 4th rows of plots, so as to accommodate a walking area, and an added waterline with spigot from the main line.

Motion #2

To approve Jessica and Katye to return and mark borders on all plots to measure 10x20, with 4 foot walkways between rows, and to mark an area for loam and chip deliveries, as well as estimate an area for the third cistern to be placed by the road.

Voted and Approved.

FUNDING UPDATE

John Woodsmall approved the request and has a purchase order in place for \$1500 of loam (2 truck loads). Jessica asked that chips be delivered first (no cost) such that they can be placed in the areas for the new beds and the walkways. Jessica also asked the DPW to help explore the cost of an added cistern and/or an additional spigot to reach to the last 2 rows of garden beds. Gina provided a current estimate of cost for the rainwater collection unit (minus the cost of the cistern), based on the item list from 2018 and the drawing provided by Michael Kendrick. Mike will not be available to help build the unit, but Gina and Katye are confident that their spouses will be available and able to complete this in the spring. Updated cost for the build out \$583.32 (plus the cistern cost; consider tax and delivery fee)

Regarding irrigation, we currently do not have a commitment from the WRHS to participate in a drip irrigation design. Michael and Aleel agree to discuss this further with the schools if they would like to be involved, and Jessica will follow up with the DPW in the spring if there is no input from the schools.

Michael will continue to explore the possibility of 501C3. The Town Manager/Board of Selectman would need to provide permission and guidance in the process, but Michael is familiar with applying for this and the steps involved. He will continue to work on this.

GRANT UPDATES

Holden Garden Club and Mass Cultural Council grant applications are due this week. We do not have a current proposal for MCC. Gina reached out to the Davis Hill teachers to offer support with an application if there was a project requiring funding, but there was no interest shared at this time.

GARDEN CLEAN UP

November 5, 10am-2pm. We need cardboard and chips for a no till method. Everyone is aware and will attempt to contribute the cardboard. Jessica will follow up with the DPW to make sure chips get delivered by 11/5. Rototilling will be planned for paths to remove weeds. Julie will be working on getting Girl Scouts involved, Gina will reach out to Boy Scouts, and Aleel will be working on NHS/High school student involvement.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Wayne rebuilt the loam screen tool.

Gina has collected more information on fencing. To be discussed at future meetings.

Aleel has created a shared Google Drive as an archive for shared documents. She will be emailing the invitation out to all participants and committee members. Everyone will have the ability to view; committee members will have editing privileges.

Julie agrees to take notes as a "secretary" position to assist in meeting minute documentation.

Community Harvest is on October 20th.

2024 Applications to be discussed at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:23; **NEXT MEETING:** November 15 at 6:15 at the Starbard Buildin