

HOLDEN COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE

February 28, 2024

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: Julie McCarthy; Gina Tutela, Aleel Grennan, Michael Mazloff, Wayne Dodge; Absent: Katye Brier

Meeting called to order at 6:20

AGENDA

The minutes of the January 31, 2024 meeting were reviewed.

Motion #1

To approve the January 31, 2023 HCG Minutes

Voted and Approved.

2024 APPLICATION UPDATE

Assuming that the previous participants with good intent do return, we have just 4 plots and 2 tables left. Jessica will send an email to returning participants and ask them to try to submit by mid-April so that those plots can be reserved officially and a push can be made to allow the added plots to be assigned. Michael volunteered to take the 2023 flier for the tables and distribute to the elder housing intown. He also will write something up to be put into the Landmark. If a plot or table remains unclaimed, we may wish to use the area for demonstration and donation purposes. We will wait to see what fills, but the meeting attendants were in favor of this idea. One participant so far has asked for a second plot if available as well.

APRIL SPRING CLEAN UP EVENT

Jessica proposed a date for the clean up to occur on the weekend before Earth Day. April 20, 2024 from 10a-2p we will hold a clean up event. Details to be discussed at the next meeting. Jess will ask John Woodsmall if he would be able to estimate when the third water spigot would be installed, and inquire about pushing the perimeter back at the back edge of the property. Gina will discuss with Mike and Joe about the building of the rainwater catchment, if it should take place on the day of the clean up or wait for after the event. If we are building in April, the materials will need to be reviewed/approved and ordered before the event. Further discussion will take place at the March meeting. Aleel will reach out to the schools to notify re: volunteer hours opportunity. Katye will be asked to create a simple flier for the social media pages and public posting.

SCOUT PROJECT INQUIRY- UPDATE

No new updates. Gina posted a simple flier in the hall where the boy scouts meet, and Julie has heard that the girl scouts are moving the bridging ceremony to the Senior Center, but that is not yet confirmed.

GARDEN CLUB REQUEST FOR STORAGE SPACE ON SITE

Jess received a call from Kathy McFarland asking if the Holden Garden Club could purchase and place their own storage shed onsite at the garden, as it is central in the Town. It would be storing their event materials and tools. The Garden Club has offered to make a donation for the opportunity to use the space. Jessica had to first review it with the DPW and Town Manager's office. The Town has declined the proposal, as the Garden Club is a private organization and therefore can not use the public space for its own belongings. Jessica presented this for information and to share that the HCGC could allow the Garden Club members to use the shed currently onsite and in use by the gardeners. However, the current shed is already full, and mixing belongings may lead to damage and/or misplacement of materials by both parties involved. The HCGC members were in agreement that we will have to decline this proposal. Jessica will notify the Garden Club.

UPDATES ON 501c3 STATUS

Michael has proposed that we defer the discussion of applying for 501c3 status until a later date. That would be considered in the future if there is a project that creates a need. We currently have funding from the town and no outstanding project costs. He clarified that the discussion with Anne last month specified an example using details from the North Dartmouth community garden. They have a much different model than ours, so the comparison is not equal. Their model involved an accountant, and they are required to have very strict and detailed itemization and reporting. If we were to move forward, Michael feels we may be able to use a very simple 990n form and expect that the process would only take 3-4 weeks. It would cost about \$325 to apply, and there would be approximately \$30 in Attn General fees.

Motion #2

To defer application for non-profit status.

Voted and Approved.

COMMUNITY HARVEST

Gina will continue to collect non-perishables every week, perishables on the 3rd week of the month (by 6am on the 3rd Friday of the month). The Food Pantry does not have a preference on what we donate. Aleel discussed a preliminary idea to allow her daughter Lena to present an outline for a more formal collection effort. This will be deferred to a future meeting, but it is a welcomed idea.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- Jessica has been nominated and approved to receive the Holden Good Neighbor Award. The ceremony will take place 3/21 at 7pm. HCGC members are invited to attend.
- Julie will retrieve pots from the recycling center for a plant sale to take place during the Town Wide Yard Sale which is scheduled for May 11.

- Michael inquired about the trellis materials used in 2023. Woodmeister in Holden was one site for collection, and Wayne mentioned a site on Grove St in Worcester where scrap wood is available as well

ADJOURNMENT: 7:10; **NEXT MEETING:** March 27 at 6:15 at the Starbard Building