

Franklin Community Garden Committee – Meeting Minutes
April 2, 2012, 6:38 PM (Franklin Municipal Building, Room 106)

- **Attendance:** Kiernan Joliat, Rich Clauser, Amy Acevedo, Teresa Triana
- **Minutes for 3/5/2012 meeting:** Approved.
- **New Committee Members:**
 - o Chris was going to find out whether Town Council has granted us permission to have associate members – Amy not sure whether that has happened yet.
- **King St. Community Garden Updates:**
 - o Shed – Shed is up and shingles are going on tomorrow! Door and casing will be assembled in Tri-County’s shop and brought to site for hanging – everything should be done by Wednesday. Once door is installed, Amy will install a lock. Teresa has a key. Wheelbarrow, watering cans, rakes, shovels, etc. have been purchased – we have \$40 left and Amy plans to use it for hooks, trowels, forks, and possibly paintbrushes. Some woodchips on site already.
 - o Compost – Compost at site needs to be turned and chopped, so Amy will work on that tomorrow. Amy has been looking into getting free compost and our connection doesn’t have much, so we will have to look at the budget balance in order to buy some from Wrentham. Could we have gardeners bring in own compost? Probably not, because we can’t be certain it’s organic/pesticide free (in order to comply with garden rules).
 - o New beds – Chris and Amy figured out there’s room for about 5 more beds. Will cost about \$1000 if we follow last year’s model. Amy is working on writing a proposal for sponsorship for local businesses – still a lot of folks on waiting list and we’d love to accommodate more. Cosponsorship possible – some businesses might not sponsor for \$200, but might give \$50. Make sure we acknowledge YMCA’s contribution to the original beds.
 - o Earth Day – Amy called Chris Ragen at Rec to suggest CG as an Earth Day volunteer site.
- **2012 Season (Renewals/New Gardeners):**
 - o Folders - Teresa dropped off 10 folders this morning. Deb suggested giving one to Chris for summer program.
 - o Payments – 100% of beds now paid in full!
 - o Waiting list – 18 available spots on waiting list, 32 people on waiting list (but may include the 10 that have been assigned to beds already). No available beds right now, but if we get funding we could build the 5 new beds immediately.
 - o New sites – Amy and Rich will get together on Saturday to scout out potential new garden sites. Site behind Rick’s Cafe probably not suitable – too much earth moving/tree clearing required. Meadow behind Jeep dealership is an interesting possibility, but will need some thinking about budget (water access, portapotty, etc.)
- **Events (Planning/Discussion):**
 - o Our Opening Day event made local news and blogs! Great press in Franklin Town News.
 - o Need to take a look at months ahead – town events are strictly community garden-based, as opposed to Friends events. We’d like to have coverage at the garden every weekend for questions, advice, etc. Chris and Amy plan to draw in attendance by

having quick informational sessions on various topics. Basic structure – coverage every Saturday with mini-talks, about once a month have a bigger event.

- On April 14, Chris will be hosting a “How to Plan Your Garden” event at the YMCA (9:30-11:30). Amy suggests holding a seed swap at the same event to increase attendance. Amy will also be getting a bunch of seeds from URI and Plantation Products (Food Pantry kicking off Ample Harvest campaign, giving out free seeds to encourage participation)
 - April 21 – garden hours will start
 - April 22 – Earth Day! Looking for volunteers to have people move woodchips – might also be a good day to paint the shed
 - Chris wants to do a Tomato Talk on May 19
 - Monday, May 28 – Garden’s one year anniversary! Definitely need an event for that – will check to see if Grateful Farm wants to do a small plant sale
 - Town has Strawberry Stroll on June 7 – we could partner with Food Pantry or the Y to sell strawberry plants at their booth
 - June 18 – National Pollinator Week. Amy working with Howard Crawford (the honey guy) – could do a wildflower seed giveaway, talk about planting wildflowers in your veggie garden to attract bees. Could also have people plant sunflowers around the fence.
 - Need July ideas – maybe a demonstration on when to harvest or a talk on pests in the garden
 - 2nd week in August – another tomato event, giving out tomato sandwiches, etc. Need approval from Health Board to be able to serve food – could also do a booklet of tomato recipes, cooking demonstration?
 - Recipe of the Week on the blog – can ask for submissions from community
 - Think about ideas for August/September/October – we’ll discuss by email and present at next meeting
- **New Business:**
- After this meeting, all members are at end of their terms – Kiernan will check with Debbie Pellegrini to find out whether members need to get sworn in again, do ethics test again, etc.
 - Need to update our section of town website
 - Find out why not all agendas/minutes are posted on website when we have submitted them all to the town
 - Need to think about how to inventory/label the stuff in the shed – wood burning tool? Need a way to tell garden’s tools apart from personal tools that people can leave in there – separate locked area within shed, maybe?
 - All gardeners will have keys to main shed (1 key per bed) – Amy will put keys in envelopes with names/bed numbers and drop them off at Rec for pickup
- **Adjourn: 7:53 PM**