

Franklin Community Garden Committee – Meeting Minutes
August 5, 2013, 6:53 PM (Franklin Municipal Building, Room 106)

- **Attendance:** Kiernan Reed, Rich Clauser, Bonnie Kaiden, Amy Acevedo, Chris Clay
- **Minutes for 7/1/13 meeting:** Approved.
- **Town Issues/Committee Issues:**
 - o Bonnie spoke with Debbie Pellegrini and found out that head of committee needs to make formal reference - Amy will take care of this tomorrow when she calls to get sworn in
 - o Annual report is due to Debbie Pellegrini by Aug. 14 (copy), Aug. 21 for photos. Kiernan will draft based on Amy's report from last year – will send to committee for review before submitting to Debbie
 - o Chris contacted Carlos re: signage – Carlos will arrange for sign to be posted at garden indicating “no dogs” in garden enclosure
 - o Carlos also vetoed the use of the flame weeder and removal of the tree
 - o Need to ask Town to resume woodchip deposits now that dirt is out of the way – may have kids from charter school come out for work day at end of season and we want to have some for them to work on
- **King St. Community Garden Updates:**
 - o 2 workdays ago was canceled due to heat – Chris will contact those folks to reschedule
 - o This past workday was very successful – new beds are all filled, 2 unused beds have been weeded and mulched
 - o Weeds coming back up in central aisle – need more mulch there. Rich suggests using landscape fabric as an underlayment for woodchips – could work but we'd need a lot. Chris will run numbers and see if it's financially feasible. In meantime Amy has a remnant she can donate – we will try it out around the tree and see how it works.
 - o Good amount of topsoil left over – we will use this to top off beds in fall (Chris will notify gardeners to take what they need)
 - o Other than the two unused beds, garden is in good shape – lots ready to harvest
 - o No serious early or late blight showing up yet, but lots of septoria spot (especially on plants imported from other areas). Late blight has been reported in CT and Western MA so it should be here soon. Amy subscribes to a UMass service that reports such issues and will send us all the link.
 - o Bed 27 is a good candidate for Garden of the Month – Amy will check it out tomorrow
 - o We will be labeling the three compost bins this month so gardeners know which is usable and where to put fresh stuff – Amy will make signs
 - o Bulletin board is a big hit – people are using it and the workday signup sheet is working really well
 - o Rich brought up idea of a beehive at the garden – it's something we'd have to talk to the Town about due to safety concerns. Not sure we have quite enough room at King St to really pull it off. Possible to put up a few mason bee houses instead since they don't sting. We could also work with Akin-Bak Farm to do an educational program on pollinators for those who are interested. Rich knows of a beekeeping course nearby and will post info on the bulletin board.

- We'd still like to plant some pollinator flowers/shrubs around fence area – will till as soon as weather permits. Michelle Clay may be able to consult on a native plant area (maybe circle in front of gate).
- **2013 Season (Renewals/New Gardeners):**
 - Nothing to report this month
 - One vacant bed was planted with green beans last month, will be ready for harvest next month
- **Events (Planning/Discussion):**
 - Amy would like to do a session on organic pest control – early next season would be ideal. We'll want to open this up to the whole community and publicize as early as possible – will discuss further over winter.
 - Green bean harvest event will need to be moved back by a week – Sept. 14-15 new date
 - Garlic planting event – Columbus Day weekend might be good (rain date following weekend)
- **New Business: None**
- **Adjourn: 7:31**