

Franklin Community Garden Committee – Meeting Minutes
July 7, 2014, 8:02 PM (Franklin Municipal Building, Room 106)

- **Attendance:** Kiernan Reed, Amy Acevedo, Chris Clay, Bonnie Kaiden, Rich Clauser
- **Minutes for 6/2/14 meeting:** Approved.
- **Town Issues/Committee Issues:**
 - o Bonnie and Amy still need to swear in, will do so before next meeting.
 - o Meetings for August and September will be 8 PM, back to 6:45 in October.
 - o Amy received a call from a citizen inquiring whether she could have a garden bed – Ryan at Rec referred citizen to Amy for inquiry. Unclear why Rec didn't give the correct info re: waitlist, but could be that Megan was not in the office at the time (she has been handling waitlist signups at Rec). Chris will contact Rec to make sure requests go to waitlist through proper channels.
 - o Waitlist currently empty. Our charter says we can't rent beds to out of towners, but we have had an inquiry from a friend in Bellingham. We may want to consider asking Town to amend our charter so we can extend beds to out of towners in situations like this where no in-towners currently need/want beds.
 - o Annual report is due to Town by 7/23. If anyone has photos/stories/stats they would like to share in the report, please email Kiernan.
 - First year that all beds have been occupied and growing.
 - Gardener from last year ran into Amy and told her that with what she learned from the Community Garden, she was able to start and grow a raised bed garden at her own condo this year.
- **King St. Community Garden Updates:**
 - o Beds 11 and 29 are unplanted, need to be reclaimed. St. Vincent DePaul would like a bed to plant for their own food pantry (not the Franklin Food Pantry). Chris can offer both to St. Vincent, since no one is on waitlist, or offer one and keep one in reserve in case anyone else comes up. Committee agrees that we can offer both to St. V with understanding that they may not be able to carry both over till next season if waitlist fills up again.
 - o Beds 6, 21 and 22 are being used by Franklin Food Pantry, being maintained by Chris, Pat, and Val. (21 is the shady bed, not suitable for most plants.)
 - o All of the early maintenance has paid off – garden is least weedy it has ever been!
 - o Amy has repaired the broken hose and it's ready to be returned.
 - o Last workday was a success, Amy will email Chris a copy of the worksheet indicating who helped.
 - o Heat and humidity are coming, so blight is a possibility soon.
 - o Rich brought up issue of money for new beds, Chris suggests keeping at least some in reserve for repair of existing beds as they are getting to the age where some timbers may need to be replaced soon. Replacement may be easiest in winter/early spring while soil is frozen. Building just a couple of beds is not usually cost effective due to cost of lumber and trucking in the soil, but we may be able to get a good price – Amy will check around and if we can get good prices, we will build two and keep the rest of the money in reserve for repairs.
 - o Pop up tents will go on sale shortly, we should buy one (6x6 or 8x8) for use at plant sales and workdays.

- **2014 Season (Renewals/New Gardeners):**
 - o Only new gardeners at this point in the season will be St. Vincent in 11 and 29.
 - o First time waitlist has been empty since garden began! We will add this to annual report and look at other ways to publicize around Town (Franklin Matters, etc.).
 - o Idea to post a sign on shed facing sidewalk, “Questions? Visit www.franklincommunitygardens.com (or Rec Dept.)” Chris will talk to Rec and determine whether sign should have people contact committee for more info or contact Rec directly. Because this is Town property, Town needs to make and post any signage. Rich will come up with wording and contact Rec to arrange for sign fabrication.
- **Events (Planning/Discussion):**
 - o Amy passed out seeds at last workday (mixed native wildflowers) to help attract pollinators but was unable to get any bee folks to come and speak.
 - o July workdays will be 19th-20th – good time to address any weeds. Rich will take 19th and Amy the 20th.
 - o August – 2nd and 3rd and 23rd and 24th for workdays. Chris will take August 2, Kiernan will take August 3. Bonnie will take August 23rd and Rich and Amy will take August 24. All workdays 9 to 12 (or as weather permits).
- **New Business:**
 - o Amy suggests having a Community Garden float in next year’s 4th of July parade – let’s think about possible ideas and discuss at next meeting.
- **Adjourn: 8:39 PM**