

Franklin Community Garden Committee – Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2015, 8:00 PM (Franklin Municipal Building, Room 205)

- **Attendance:** Kiernan Reed, Bonnie Kaiden, Rich Clauser, Amy Acevedo, Val Sternadore
- **Minutes for 10/19/15 meeting:**
 - o Approved
- **Town Issues/Committee Issues:**
 - o Next year’s meetings to be held: Feb 1, Mar 7, Apr 4, May 2, June 6, July 11, Aug 1, Sep 12, Oct 3, Nov 7. Kiernan will contact Town to book rooms/arrange for official posting of meeting dates.
 - o Dealing with handbook/rules and regs:
 - Handbook and rules/regs are two different documents. Rules and regs had to be presented to Town when committee was formed. May 2011 version is on both Google Drive and garden website but it is not clear whether that is the original as presented to Town or the subsequently revised version.
 - Bonnie suggests combining the two into one document, and all agree that’s a good idea. Was originally separate because rules/regs was part of gardeners’ original online signup, and handbook was part of gardeners’ welcome packet. No reason for the two to be separate at this point.
 - o Review of rules and regs: anything we change here needs to be submitted to Town Council. Bonnie will reach out to Town to find out how we need to do this.
 - General Information:
 - Eligibility in current version covers everybody, this doesn’t need changing
 - \$40 dues need to be confirmed with Rec for next season to find out if they will stay the same – Bonnie will check.
 - Fee is intended to cover DPW services such as water, woodchip delivery, etc., so we’ll make sure it doesn’t need to be changed
 - Current language: “Gardeners may apply for plots in one of the following categories: Accessible plots, Community Organization plots, and household plots.”
 - First 6 beds were intended to stay accessible regardless of waitlist status. System has broken down since we never really needed it.
 - As of beginning of this season, Val says Rec asked her whether she needed an accessible bed, so Town clearly still has this on its mind. Otherwise, gardeners are not asked for a plot category when they sign up/renew.
 - Kiernan proposes changing language to read: “**Accessible beds are available if requested,**” since process is no longer a lottery but a waitlist and rules already make clear that community groups may apply. All agree.
 - Next two bullet points (re: lottery) will be deleted as lottery no longer applies. New language will be added to reflect current procedure.
 - Ideal to make Rec the single point of contact for new gardeners/inquiries, We will probably get inquiries even though Rec handles signups, but other town activities have people go straight through Rec so we should do the same.

- We are supposed to give Rec a list of beds and names of people who want to/are eligible to renew. Rec then contacts those people to make arrangements for payment.
 - Proposed language: “Gardeners may sign up for or renew plots through the Franklin Recreation Department. [add phone number and email here]”
 - **“Leased plots may be renewed to gardeners in good standing.”** Delete “For the following season.”
 - Add new bullet point: **“If any unassigned beds remain after June 1, and there is no one on the wait list, the Committee will notify gardeners that additional beds are available. Gardeners may then have the option of leasing one additional bed for that growing season only. The additional bed is not automatically renewable.”** (language already voted on by committee at last meeting)
 - Garden Committee remains responsible for ensuring rules are followed – no change needed here.
 - Rules and Regulations:
 - Town’s Municipal Facilities Use language comes right from Legal and cannot be changed. Bonnie will check with Town to make sure this is still the most current version of their regs.
 - Our rules and regulations can be changed as needed.
 - First bullet point: dates back to lottery system and needs to be changed.
 - Proposed new language: **“I will actively garden my bed during the gardening season.”**
 - Next bullet point: change “the garden leaders” to **“the current Garden Coordinator.”**
 - Next point: change to **“I will keep my plot weeded and free of trash and debris, and I will maintain the areas immediately surrounding my plot, including pathways and fences, in the same manner.”**
 - Next point: need to figure out how we are going to enforce this. Amy suggests written warning via gardeners’ email on record, after phone call to find out what’s going on. One week’s notice should be plenty, can be adjusted if there’s some communication between gardener and coordinator.
 - Proposed language: **“If my plot becomes poorly maintained, I understand I will be contacted by the Garden Coordinator and given one week to resolve the issue. After that time, if my plot is not maintained, it will be reassigned to someone on the FCG waitlist.”**
 - Committee votes to continue discussion on Monday, Dec. 7 at 8 PM. Kiernan will contact Town to make arrangements.
- **King St. Community Garden Updates:**
- Val reports people aren’t using compost bins properly – Bonnie suggests gardener reeducation. Compost 101 event next season? We’ll make sure to include some info on this in the revised handbook.
 - Need to reinforce trash pack-in-pack-out rule. People are starting to put some trash (plastic plant tags, etc.) in compost bins.

- **2015 Season (Renewals/New Gardeners):**
 - o Nothing to report
- **Events (Planning/Discussion):**
 - o Nothing to report
- **New Business:**
 - o Rules/regs/handbook discussion will continue Dec. 7.
- **Adjourn: 9:22 PM**