

Franklin Community Garden Committee – Meeting Minutes
June 1, 2015, 8:03 PM (Franklin Municipal Building, Room 106)

- **Attendance:** Kiernan Reed, Bonnie Kaiden, Chris Clay, Amy Acevedo
- **Minutes for 5/4/15 meeting:**
 - o Approved
- **Town Issues/Committee Issues:**
 - o Chris has had 2 gardeners and one group inquire re signing up for additional beds if beds are still open; suggests we make a rule that if beds are not filled by new gardeners by June 1, we can open them up to existing gardeners/groups.
 - Amy asks what are guidelines for changing guidelines – do we need to propose change and vote at next meeting? Does Town need to approve?
 - Nothing in current guidelines say gardeners can't have more than one bed, so we can codify that.
 - Open Meeting Law suggests we need to put it on the agenda for our next meeting and vote then. In meantime we can advise Rec that this change is in the works.
 - Chris suggests that if gardeners obtain extra beds like this, those beds are not renewable as “primary” beds are (i.e. kept only for this particular season). Helps keep beds full for the season but allows new gardeners to join next season.
 - This will be added to the agenda for next meeting.
 - o Town has requested that all committee members notify them of whether they wish to be reappointed to the committee. Bonnie, Kiernan, Amy, and Chris all wish to be reappointed. Kiernan will contact Rich and notify Town.
 - o Annual report will be due within next month or two – Kiernan requests that committee members notify her if they have items to add to the report.
- **King St. Community Garden Updates:**
 - o Successful plant sale on May 23, not so successful on May 24. \$134 made for Friends of the Franklin Community Garden.
 - o Chris emailed gardeners last week re: cutworm problem. Has not heard anything else from gardeners so far about pests.
 - o Amy has been looking into safe ways to deal with cutworms, and found new product called Sluggo Plus (spinosad). Organic insecticide that's effective against cutworms that can last up to 4 months.
 - o Amy would like to buy some (with profit from plant sale) and put it on all the beds, but it would become a recurring expense and would need to be done at least twice a season. However, if it is also effective on bean beetles Amy is all for it. Amy would like to do more research to determine cost.
 - o Kiernan and Bonnie concerned that gardeners might not all want this on their beds. We have had recurring pest issues with the beds, so this will give gardeners an opportunity to comment on their thoughts.
 - o We will notify gardeners of this option and ask for feedback, advise them that this will be discussed/voted on at July meeting.
 - o Soil should have been delivered by now – Amy has been charged for it but has not had an opportunity to check for delivery.

- Two new beds have been built! 52 total now. New beds need to be painted with numbers. We should consider whether to renumber all beds next year – would make a more consistent pattern but could be confusing to renewing gardeners.
- Lock on shed has been replaced with combo lock and all gardeners have been given combination. Seems to be working well so far.
- **2015 Season (Renewals/New Gardeners):**
 - Chris has not received any updates from Rec recently – means likely no changes have been made recently. Seems to be working well to have Rec handle signups.
 - Chris will soon be giving Rich the final list of gardeners for workday scheduling purposes.
- **Events (Planning/Discussion):**
 - Ed Szymanski still interested in speaking to us about pollinators but can't do Saturdays. June 21 is Father's Day, so Kiernan will check with Ed to see if June 28 works for him.
 - Need to schedule at least one June workday. Saturday, June 13 works for most committee members, will also do Sunday the 28th to allow people who don't have Saturdays free to help (and vice versa).
 - Same thing for Saturday July 11 and Sunday July 26, Saturday August 8 and Sunday August 23, Saturday September 12 and Sunday September 27. Chris will send out workday list and schedule. All workdays will be 9-12.
 - Amy will give a 9:00 AM pest talk at June 13 workday, to help gardeners recognize and control common garden pests. Chris will do a talk on tomato diseases for one of the July workdays, day TBD. For August Amy can talk about extending season/cold weather crops.
 - Friends will not be having a table at the Strawberry Stroll this year, but we can do a free table at the farmer's market if we sign up in advance (one free community table per market). Would need to have some kind of giveaway/interesting info to draw people in.
- **New Business:**
 - Next meeting will discuss/vote on gardeners taking extra beds and pest control issues.
- **Adjourn: 8:47 PM**