

**Franklin Community Garden Committee – Meeting Minutes**  
**November 6, 2017, 7:30 PM (Franklin Municipal Building, Room 205)**

- **Attendance:** Kiernan Reed, Bonnie Kaiden, Rich Clauser, Robin Cowper
- **Minutes for 10/2/17 meeting:**
  - o Approved
- **Town Issues/Committee Issues:**
  - o Kelly Sabini has now taken over Facebook page admin duties
  - o Still looking for new committee members – we need to continue actively searching. Obviously what we're doing isn't working well and we need to find some incentive to get people to participate.
  - o Bonnie suggests following up with a garden email reminder – build day was a success, thanks for your participation this season, please consider participating in committee next season, etc.
  - o We will also send thank you to Town/DPW for all their help – Rich sent thank you note to Carlos for all his assistance as well.
- **King St. Community Garden Updates:**
  - o Build day was a big success! We had a great turnout and all delivered lumber was used to rebuild about half of the existing beds.
  - o Rich sent Carlos at DPW a breakdown of exactly what we need to finish remaining beds. Rich will provide that breakdown to committee for review next meeting.
  - o Some beds are newer than others, may not need immediate replacement. If we leave them alone Rich suggests we can use the remaining lumber for new beds. Other option is to simply rebuild all so they all age at same rate.
  - o Question: do we have enough demand to justify building new beds? Amy should know how many people are on current waitlist. Since she is not here tonight Bonnie will ask and we can revisit this at next meeting.
  - o At beginning of next season we need to regroup to find out what happened with Town money and why there wasn't enough to complete all beds this year. We have leftover lumber we can use for bed parts for next year, but not the right sizes to complete a whole bed.
  - o May just need to repeat budget request process early next spring.
  - o We want to invite Carlos or someone from DPW to next meeting so that we can find out what exactly went wrong with the budget this year.
  - o Rich suggests charging a \$10 penalty next season for people who don't show up for workdays – we as committee can't handle money so this is unlikely to be workable.
  - o Old scrap lumber is in the process of being hauled away
  - o Next year workdays need to be more strictly policed – Amy suggested at last meeting that we could divide garden into quadrants with section leaders who can take more responsibility for their section. Kim McClain stated at build day that she's unable to join committee but is interested in serving as section captain next season
  - o Kim also stated that compost quality is not good – she used it this year and had insect problems that she didn't previously have. One priority for next season needs to be getting a compost guru to teach us all how to do it properly. Deb Schwab is making signs for compost bins as well.

- Rich suggests renumbering all beds so that the numbers run consecutively – no real good reason not to. Kiernan suggests keeping a copy of the plan with the old numbers so that we can notify renewing gardeners of their new bed number if changed (i.e., someone who wants to keep the same bed may do so but just have same number).
- New numbers will start from farthest row back so that if we add new beds they can go in at the higher numbers.
- Our visitor Robin Cowper is representing New England Chapel – they are looking for ways to interface with the community and help underserved populations. Robin is the NEC liaison with the Franklin Food Pantry as well and has been involved in their relationship with the Community Garden in past years. Would definitely like to continue that relationship but Robin has found that it's easier to get people to turn up for a one-day defined project than to have people help in a sustained long-term effort.
- Robin invites us to reach out to her folks for big projects like next year's build day – just brainstorming ways to help interface with the community.
- Robin may be interested in joining the committee as well to help us formalize that Food Pantry relationship – will contact Town Clerk to see how that process gets started. Kiernan will email Robin with info.
- Teresa Triana purchased screws at Aubuchon on Build Day, has a receipt for reimbursement. Bonnie will send to Amy for Friends to take care of.
- Another need for next season is a proper webmaster and overhaul of our web page
- **2017 Season (Renewals/New Gardeners):**
  - 2017 season is over – looking forward to 2018!
- **Events (Planning/Discussion):**
  - Next year's meeting schedule: Feb. 5, Mar. 5, Apr. 2, May 7, June 4, July 2, Aug. 6, Sept. 10, Oct. 1, Nov. 5
  - Kiernan will notify Town of dates and complete necessary paperwork
- **New Business:**
  - None
- **Adjourn: 8:40 PM**