

**Franklin Community Garden Committee – Meeting Minutes**  
**August 15, 2016, 7:30 PM (Franklin Municipal Building, Room 205)**

- **Attendance:** Kiernan Reed, Rich Clauser, Bonnie Kaiden, Amy Acevedo
- **Minutes for 7/11/16 meeting:**
  - o Approved
- **Town Issues/Committee Issues:**
  - o Annual report due 8/17 – Kiernan emailed draft to committee members for discussion tonight.
    - o King St Garden currently in its 5<sup>th</sup> season, beds leased to community members and nonprofits (St Vincent, HMEA, and Food Pantry)
    - o Plant sale and garlic demonstration were well-attended
    - o Garden welcomes gardeners of all skill levels
    - o New handbooks made available to everyone electronically
    - o Seeking new members
  - o Amy got contact info for our webmaster and has sent to Bonnie – Bonnie will contact him regarding updating our official website
- **King St. Community Garden Updates:**
  - o Some paths/common areas are becoming unkempt – Amy has landscape cloth we can use to help keep weeds down.
  - o Virtually all old beds are starting to rot from inside – Rich has patched and reinforced and needs reimbursement for his materials.
  - o The worst ones have been reinforced now, but all probably need to be done.
  - o We don't have enough money in the budget to completely rebuild all beds right now, but can continue to reinforce in meantime. Keeping them the same size is expensive but ideal due to soil conditions underneath.
    - Over winter we may want to sit down and put together a projected budget for replacement/maintenance of the beds, to present to Town and see if we can get an every-five-year line item or similar. Replacement cost would be approx. \$155-160 per bed, possibly lower if we buy in bulk.
    - First order of business would be to contact Ryan to find out what we need to do to start the process of requesting funds. We'd like to set a target date of April to have the funds we need.
  - o Some beds aren't being tended, but weather may be a factor here.
  - o DPW has dropped off a new shipment of wood chips (2 truckloads).
  - o Compost is starting to be an issue – we need to educate gardeners on proper use of compost bins. Good topic for an educational event this fall.
  - o Tree will be pruned in fall, but we don't know exactly when yet.
- **2016 Season (Renewals/New Gardeners):**
  - o Amy has received two emails from people interested in gardening next year
- **Events (Planning/Discussion):**
  - o Need to schedule a compost talk, resume “office hours” at garden (2x/month, usually in conjunction with workdays)
  - o Need to schedule at least one end-of-season cleanup – two whole weekends might be best. Sept. 10-11, and Sept. 24-25 works for most. Bonnie will send out message to gardeners to let them know.

- **New Business:**
  - None
- **Adjourn: 8:46 PM**