

**Franklin Community Garden Committee – Meeting Minutes**  
**April 18, 2017, 7:30 PM (Franklin Municipal Building, Room 205)**

- **Attendance:** Kiernan Reed, Bonnie Kaiden, Rich Clauser, Amy Acevedo
- **Minutes for 3/6/17 meeting:**
  - o Approved
- **Town Issues/Committee Issues:**
  - o Bonnie needs to do ethics training still, rest of committee has completed
  - o Need to let town know if we want to be reappointed to committee for next year
  - o Phyllis Smith has filed volunteer application with the town and we are one of the committees she is interested in – Bonnie will notify Town that we are interested in having her meet with Jeff Nutting
  - o Nancy Stolfa has been invited to join meetings but is out of town right now
  - o Budgeting – Amy sent us a spreadsheet for bed rebuild based on Home Depot retail pricing for materials (incl stainless steel fasteners and arsenic-free pressure treated lumber), Town approved our request and advised us to coordinate with DPW with 45-day lead time
  - o Next step is to set build date so we can get the DPW on board with enough time; ideal would be this fall
  - o Still having problems coordinating with Rec department – we gave Megan list of renewals and then she advised us they can renew starting on X date. Amy went onto signup site run by Town and it looks like anyone can sign up, not just renewals. Renewals are now supposed to talk to Megan or Sheila but lots of gardeners are complaining they can't reach anyone at Rec.
  - o We have asked gardeners to email us directly to be added to the waitlist, but online there is a waitlist that isn't ours. Same problem we have had before – Rec is not communicating and coordinating well with us.
  - o Garden sign ups issues w/ rec
  - o More control over waitlist only in gmail rather than on rec.
  - o Garden signups:
    - o Current # renewals: 42
    - o 2 unassigned beds amy waiting to hear from
    - o Amy has assigned new gardeners, now only 2 open
    - o #21 the only one not assigned. Put some flowers, shade plants.
  - o Amy problem: franklin food pantry – name of gardener. Never heard.
  - o Amy reached out to Derek Luccini and is playing phone tag – we met with JP re: building a new site but nothing has been completed yet due to family medical issues
  - o Peter Saracen might be a good resource for our committee – Amy knows him and he's interested in organic raised bed gardening.
  - o Amy or Kiernan will approach Mel at Agway about others who might be interested and ask if we can post a flyer at the store (committee seeking new members)
- **King St. Community Garden Updates:**
  - o Rich will check to see if water is on yet at garden
  - o Flag system (weed, harvest, etc.) worked when we did it, we should start it up again. Rich will take over that duty

- Amy will coordinate with food pantry to see if they have someone on their end maintaining their bed this year; if not we will coordinate on our end
- **2017 Season (Renewals/New Gardeners):**
  - Amy emailed all gardeners to welcome them to this season. Only renewing for one bed per gardener at this time. All revised guidelines we made last season have been distributed to gardeners.
  - Still a few bumps with Rec communication but we're getting there
  - Amy will reach out again to people we haven't heard from yet
  - New gardener email list is essentially the same as regular but Amy added a few extra pieces of info re: payments, etc.
  - Bonnie and Amy will coordinate on informing gardeners of volunteer opportunities for the season like plant sale, etc. We can ask if anyone is interested in "mentoring" a less experienced gardener
  - Another volunteer opportunity could be running our social media
- **Events (Planning/Discussion):**
  - Plant sale will be weekend of May 20-21 (weekend before Memorial Day) – good opportunity for volunteer hours. We will reach out to gardeners with Signup Genius and determine hours for sale by response
  - Build day would be a great opportunity for volunteer hours but we will do that a little later on
  - 2 workdays per month, one on Saturday and one on Sunday, 9-11 AM
  - May – Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup> and Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup> would work well
  - June – Saturday the 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup>
  - July – Saturday the 1<sup>st</sup> and Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup>
  - August – Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> and Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup>
  - Sept – Saturday the 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup>
  - Oct – Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> and Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - Bed build day should be October into November – tentatively set for Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup>, so we need to connect with DPW by 3<sup>rd</sup> week of August so they can purchase and deliver materials. Should also have them bring their generator
  - Medway Community Farm's new gardener had an event at Agway recently which would be a great event for us if she wants to repeat it for our group
- **New Business:**
  - None
- **Adjourn: 8:45 PM**