

**Franklin Community Garden Committee – Meeting Minutes**  
**September 12, 2016, 7:34 PM (Franklin Municipal Building, Room 205)**

- **Attendance:** Kiernan Reed, Rich Clauser, Bonnie Kaiden, Amy Acevedo
- **Minutes for 8/15/16 meeting:**
  - o Approved
- **Town Issues/Committee Issues:**
  - o Annual report submitted 8/17 to Town
  - o Amy will follow up with webmaster re: updating our official website; will find out what he needs from our end in order to update non-dynamic info
- **King St. Community Garden Updates:**
  - o Sept. 11-12 workday weekend was a success – DPW cleared out area behind back fence, delivered tons of chips and mowed. Gardeners worked on clearing weeds/spreading chips in paths between beds and other tasks.
  - o Test patch of landscape fabric has been placed behind bed #30, covered with mulch, so we can see how that works to keep weeds down for next season. Some grass may sprout in wood chips in late summer from airborne seeds but can be easily pulled.
    - By mid-season next year we'll be able to see if it works well enough to invest in enough fabric for the whole common area. It's guaranteed for 5 years, can go up to 10 if covered. Comes in several different widths, all 300-foot rolls. 4x300 roll is \$56, also some freight cost. 6x300 is \$84 + shipping.
  - o What happens to gardeners who don't show up for workdays? After second workday weekend, Kiernan suggests to contact gardeners who didn't show up for either and remind them of obligation. Amy suggests setting expectations as far as what a "closed for season" bed looks like.
  - o Bonnie suggests notifying all gardeners of their last chance to participate in 2016 workday – if you wish to be renewed next year, you need to show up.
  - o At least once a month communication with gardeners is important, will focus on that for next year.
  - o Bed #48 gardeners were exceptionally helpful at recent workday, may want to reach out to them and invite to next meeting.
  - o Rich provided receipts for additional bed repairs – about 40 beds have been reinforced so far, still a few to go. 30-40% of beds are rotted on bottom boards. Amy will open discussion of finances with Ryan. By next meeting we will have an answer on whether Town budget is a possibility or whether Friends will need to fundraise.
  - o Rich estimates about 20% of the beds will last one more season and will then need total replacement. If we can get the money worked out, replacement next spring would be ideal.
  - o We will also redesign the beds to make them last longer, could potentially shorten height to save some money. At least a few should remain at current height for accessibility.
  - o Native pollinator garden outside fence needs a little attention – good opportunity to get some plant nerds in to help out! Fall will be a good time to add some additional perennials. Maybe Ed Szymanski will be interested.
  - o Other patch outside fence needs attention too but it's unclear who is responsible for it. Bonnie will contact Rec to see if they know anything about it.

- Rich will put up a poster on the garden bulletin board asking for new committee members and/or volunteers (people to help run workdays, etc.)
- **2016 Season (Renewals/New Gardeners):**
  - No news
- **Events (Planning/Discussion):**
  - Next workday September 24-25.
  - Garlic planting event probably not a great idea in light of possibility of tearing down and rebuilding beds in spring.
- **New Business:**
  - None
- **Adjourn: 8:39 PM**