

Franklin Community Garden Committee – Meeting Minutes
October 3, 2016, 7:38 PM (Franklin Municipal Building, Room 205)

- **Attendance:** Kiernan Reed, Bonnie Kaiden, Dan Chase, Nancy Stolfa, Amy Acevedo
- **Minutes for 9/12/16 meeting:**
 - o Approved
- **Town Issues/Committee Issues:**
 - o Still having website issues – now have two sites at franklincommunitygardens.com and at franklincommunitygardens.org. Amy is working with webmaster Derek Luccini to sort things out. Some free fixes we can use, also some that will cost (like creating admin page with real-time updates on plot plan assignments, etc.); undecided whether it's cost-effective to pay webmaster to do those.
- **King St. Community Garden Updates:**
 - o September workdays were successful, 3 of 4 were well-attended.
 - o Garden looks great! This is the best it has ever looked this late in the season.
 - o Town assisted with cleanup behind fence, overgrowth is all gone now!
 - o Gardener Susan Baker (Bed 12) sent Amy an email re: removal of her remaining plants – she attended September 24 workday and found her bed cleared out by someone else. We do not know why this happened other than a possible volunteer error – no gardeners were directed to do anything with beds other than their own. Obviously this should not have happened and should not happen again! We have apologized to Susan privately and will contact her further to see what else we can do to make amends.
 - o Amy suggests for next season creating area coordinators for sections of the garden, so gardeners have someone to contact if they need someone to help harvest, water, etc. Bonnie and Kiernan concur. Will help with better communication and foster more community, also could be a good way to have gardeners participate more without needing to become committee member/attend meetings.
 - o Bonnie posted signs on the shed asking for new members, but no one has contacted her yet.
 - o Test patch of landscape fabric behind bed 30 has been joined by a patch of biodegradable landscape fabric behind beds 47-49, so we will have a comparison next spring.
 - o Amy working on preliminary budget for bed replacement, based on numbers provided by Rich. Ballpark budget for lumber per bed at full retail price is \$155-160, but that doesn't include fasteners which are expensive. Probably close to \$200 per bed all included.
 - o Dan willing to spread the word around middle and high schools for fundraisers to donate to the nonprofit side.
 - o Patch outside fence to right of garden was a butterfly garden for a high school project by Haley Goulet. Same person who started the dog park at Dacey Field. DPW maintains it now.
 - o Will need to remind gardeners to finish cleaning out tender vegetables (tomatoes, peppers, etc.) from their beds after first frost; also need to remind people that water is usually turned off in October.
- **2016 Season (Renewals/New Gardeners):**

- For 2017, we need to streamline signup process somehow. Gardenmail seemed to work best since we all have access, but problem is that people tend to go straight to rec to sign up and bypass us.
 - Can we have some sort of payment portal on our site that sends people directly to rec to pay? Amy will check with Derek.
- **Events (Planning/Discussion):**
 - For next season we would definitely like to resume regular workdays, ideally 2x-month. Probably don't need a final workday this year as long as we notify people to finish cleanup as needed.
- **New Business:**
 - Next month's meeting will set dates for 2017 meetings, renewal deadlines, etc.
- **Adjourn: 8:57 PM**