

**Franklin Community Garden Committee – Meeting Minutes**  
**February 5, 2018, 7:32 PM (Franklin Municipal Building, Room 106)**

- **Attendance:** Kiernan Reed, Rich Clauser, Amy Acevedo, Teresa Triana
- **Minutes for 11/6/17 meeting:**
  - Approved
- **Town Issues/Committee Issues:**
  - Robin Cowper and Brendon Wessell have submitted paperwork to Town to join committee. We will vote later in meeting; Robin attended November's meeting but we haven't met Brendon yet.
  - Teresa Triana is here tonight but not planning to formally rejoin committee just yet. Her son Francisco did community service at build days in October and needs some paperwork signed. Rich Clauser will sign for committee.
  - **Question:** does it make sense for this committee to become part of or merge with the Agricultural Commission now that it's in place?
    - We are a small committee and have struggled to get enough people to do what needs to be done. Now that Ag Comm has been established, we may be able to work with them on a more formal basis to make sure the King St garden is run well and to explore possibility of expanding to other locations in town.
    - Not sure if we really fit with their mandate or not – there are arguments to be made both ways.
    - Possibility of at least working with their members for better advice on organics, pest control, etc. (For example, need to encourage gardeners to incorporate flowers into their beds that attract beneficial insects.)
      - Amy and Rich agree that this idea is worth exploring a little further. Kiernan will talk to Melanie Hamblen to get her perspective before next meeting.
- **King St. Community Garden Updates:**
  - Beds have now been renumbered thanks to Rich – committee has been provided with updated map and Rich will post a copy at the garden bulletin board.
  - We need to work with DPW to get the materials to do the remaining beds this season. Rich has provided Carlos at DPW a breakdown of exactly what is needed. Most likely that money will be available for further construction in fall 2018.
  - At November 2017 meeting we asked if there is enough demand to justify building additional new beds. Amy doesn't have waitlist details with her tonight but believes there are fewer than 10 people on waitlist currently.
  - Year to year usually about 20% of gardeners don't return, but number of new gardeners has generally made up for that. No reason to expect that will change this year.
  - Rich reports being asked if we can build bigger beds, doesn't seem practical for many reasons at King Street but that doesn't mean we can't do that in a different location around town.
  - "Abandoned beds" or deteriorating beds can be used by us to plant things that will attract beneficials/pollinators this season.

- This season we'd like to divide garden into quadrants and appoint people to help keep an eye on each. Kim McClain has volunteered to do that and Teresa is also interested, so we need two others
  - 35-42, 48-52 – Teresa (Section D)
  - Need to talk to Kim to figure out which section she'd like and find two other section leaders
- Food pantry beds generally depend on what's available after other beds have been assigned
- Compost beds need major attention this season – good workday project. Large items can be cut up or bagged to take to transfer station.
- Few more planks need to be removed from old bed demolition – they were behind the shed and DPW probably thought we were keeping them. We will need to let DPW know they are ready for pickup.
  - Rich will call Carlos to let him know about this and ask about this year's rebuild materials
- Beds need to be topped off with fresh soil/compost this season – many have settled. Amy has farm contacts we can ask for compost donations, and will look into getting more soil from McIntyre.
- **2018 Season (Renewals/New Gardeners):**
  - This month we will reach out to existing gardeners to let them know bed numbers have changed, ask them to respond by end of month to let us know if they plan to renew.
  - Amy would like to hand assignment duty off to someone else this year – Kiernan is willing to help.
  - Teresa will ask Deb Schwab if she's willing to help with bed assignment organization as well
- **Events (Planning/Discussion):**
  - All meetings for the season have been scheduled and confirmed with Town – room 106 for all.
  - Plant sale will take place in May as usual, date TBD.
- **New Business:**
  - Vote to accept Robin Cowper as committee member:
    - Amy, Rich, and Kiernan vote to accept
  - Vote to accept Brendon Wessell as committee member:
    - Amy, Rich, and Kiernan vote to accept
- **Adjourn: 8:46 PM**