

Medford Community Garden Commission
Tuesday, September 25, 7-8:30PM

Attendance: Mimi Gordon, Amanda Bowen, Brian Duran, Lisa "Riz" Risley, Fred Laskey, Susan Schmidt, Rebecca Stevenson

Approval of minutes was postponed until next month.

The group was reminded that open forums on the Community Preservation Act were planned for October.

There was discussion about priorities for future gardens and which to put forward for CPA funding. The requested budget could vary considerably depending on the site. It was suggested that we gather all possible suggestions for future locations and develop a plan to be implemented over 3-5 years. Brian offered to host a planning meeting on October 10 to assemble and review all options. He will also connect with Mike Nestor and other city officials for their input.

Riz summarized the efforts of the new Food Security Task Force that she and Syrah McGivern have formed. Some of the themes they have discussed so far include access, retail availability, education, school food issues, and transportation. They are exploring grants from Tufts to support their work. Improved access to growing space is one theme and they plan to apply for CPA funding focusing on gardening options for those living in Housing Authority developments.

In garden updates, Susan reported on a bee event at the Tufts garden and Brian noted that the paths at Winthrop are finally all lined with wood chips. The Eversource project at Winthrop is still slated to begin in early November. In preparation all vegetation in beds must be trimmed so that the beds can be covered for the duration of the project. We are still working on a revised proposal to National Grid for their space on Spring Street.