

**Medford Community Garden Commission 6/26/18**  
**Medford Public Library**

In attendance: Elise Boerges, Mimi Gordon, Brian Duran, Lisa Risley, Amanda Bowen, Joan Parker, Fred Laskey

The May minutes were approved.

National Grid site: Brian reported that he is in touch with Brian Kerins at DPW to get reassurance about water for the site. He is also in touch with mayor's office for clarification about insurance coverage.

Membership: Brian plans to draft some guidelines for managing the waiting list, especially about handling those who pass one year and want to stay on. He will make suggestions for removing names as well.

Educational beds: The Winthrop steering committee asked for clarification on whether the Commission had recommendations for assigning the educational beds. We agreed that this was totally the purview of the Winthrop group.

Barry Park: Amanda and Joan reported on the latest Parks Board meeting. Fueled by a letter from Paul Fombelle opposing the latest garden site, the Board was pretty much opposed to the garden. As mentioned by the Board chairman, Amanda learned from Mark Rumley, city solicitor, that city parks (as designated in the deed) have special protection from the state through Article 97. Those designated "playgrounds" in the deed are more easily modified for example by adding a garden.

We agreed not to pursue Barry Park at this time. Amanda will notify the CPA coordinator and draft a note to the Community Garden email list to make sure everyone knows this is no longer in the works.

Harris Park: Brian learned from Clodagh in the Community Development Office that planning for Harris Park will begin in late July.

Future spaces: We brainstormed about small neighborhood spaces that might be used for passive growing. Suggestions included a space near the Lawrence Hospital, land near an electrical building in Medford Square and a space near the athletic fields at Tufts.

Garden updates: Winthrop had a successful potluck recently and has several enthusiastic new gardeners. New taps have been installed bringing the total to 3. Riverbend has new gardeners as well and a shorter waiting list than previously. McNally has one gardener who has not yet planted anything. The water arrangement is informal and leaky. Brian offered to repair the connections and mount the hose bib sometime soon.

Food Security Task Force: Riz reported on plans to develop the lot near her house in North Medford as an orchard or perhaps a communal garden including berry plants and low shrubs. An off-grid greenhouse would be used to grow seedings for various growing projects.

The Commission agreed not to meet in July. Our next scheduled meeting will be August 28 at 7PM.