

Medford Community Garden Commission
December 2, 2018

Attending: Joan Parker, Lisa Risley, Mimi Gordon, Rebecca Stevenson, Amanda Bowen, Fred Laskey, Brian Duran

Several of us have received renewal letters from the mayor's office as our terms have expired. All are willing to continue. Rebecca agree to serve as an alternate as we have not had the two required in our founding document.

Joan reported that Winthrop is prepped for the Eversource project but there is some doubt that it will happen. They have not yet obtained needed permits from Winchester; they are required to have completed our part of the project by April 1. New coordinators will be ratified at the annual meeting in the spring, Julie Hambrook Berkman and Liz White. Joan will serve as education coordinator.

Fred noted that the Water Department has finished closing off water lines and blowing out the lines; this has happened at Winthrop as well. Amanda will make sure this has happened for McNally and ask Sarah Florenz about Tufts.

The Board of Health has been contacted by neighbors of Harris Park with concerns about rats. The group agreed that there has been no evidence to date of rats around existing gardens. We need to draft an escalation plan, outlining what to do if rats are sighted, and will discuss this in January to create language to be approved by the Board of Health. Elise will consult with a representative of the Trustees of Reservations who manages Boston's community gardens.

We look forward to inviting Kevin Bailey, Recreation Director, to a future meeting to brainstorm about garden-related programming and also fiscal oversight.

Wait List: We reviewed the names on the waiting list to determine how many had been contacted multiple times yet remained on the list. One concern is that some retain their ranking on the list while other eager gardeners languish further down. Brian will draft some guidelines for January that will outline how to move contacted gardeners who don't respond to an inactive status. Those who defer will be moved to the bottom of the list but their original application date will be saved. A mechanism must be in place to record those in one garden but waiting for space in another. We also considered a process of calling the top folks on the list early in 2019 to establish those who are still eager for a plot.

Riz noted that she plans to survey gardeners about what seedlings they'd like to see in the seedling sale in May.

Amanda agreed to contact Brian Kerins at the DPW about current city policy for street triangles in response to Councilor Knight's suggestion that we take responsibility for them.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 22nd. In February we hope to meet at the West Medford Community Center in order to discuss the concept of an orchard on city-owned land nearby.