

Medford Community Garden Commission (via Zoom)  
May 26, 2021

Present: Syrah McGivern, Brian Duran, Lisa Risley, Rebecca Stevenson, Amanda Bowen  
(recorder)

Web site: Rebecca has begun to investigate ways to automate our garden application. She has found a WordPress plugin that might work. Meanwhile we have received an offer from the Tufts Jumbo Coders to contribute their time to help us with tech. Amanda will discuss the projects that might be available.

Eversource funds for Winthrop: Brian is coordinating the plan for additions to Winthrop funded by the Eversource project. He will bring us a plan for our approval in June; it may include a gazebo, benches, electricity and blueberry plants. He was able to verify with the City that DCR permission for these efforts is not required.

Food Security: Syrah feels that she will have time in the next year to pursue several of the projects we have discussed over the years including food forests, a community greenhouse and youth engagement. Riz noted the need for a designated coordinator if a greenhouse got off the ground. Syrah feels that grants are available. Available land may be difficult to identify. She feels it is important to survey residents to determine how best to provide what they need. We might arrange a field trip to visit a group like Mill City Growers in Lowell for ideas. Involving vocational high school students would be beneficial.

La Prise: Amanda met with Housing Authority staff and they are quite interested in the idea of a garden. They are also quite interested in the possibility that funding can come from sources other than their budget. They located a good sunny site and requested certain elements such as stone dust paths and plumbing be included in the budget. Brian provided some assistance with fence and plumbing cost calculations. Amanda will complete the Community Development application and work with Syrah and the Board of Health on submitting it.

Tomato seedling giveaway: Riz has grown nearly 100 tomato seedlings and is ready for them to be distributed. Rebecca and Amanda will coordinate with Mystic Market staff to schedule the giveaway.