

Medford Community Garden Commission
February 23, 2021

Present: Lisa Risley, Rebecca Stevenson, Elise Boerges, Amanda Bowen, Brian Duran, Fred Laskey, Liz White, Stephen Ferrigno, Julie Hambrook Berkman

Amanda drafted a splash page to give those applying for a garden plot more context for their application including how long it might take to be assigned a plot. Suggested comments from the group will be incorporated into the document before it is posted.

We will also post a link to the email for Riverbend so that folks know how to contact that garden to get on their wait list.

It's not clear that everyone knows where the gardens are when they apply. It was suggested that a map would be handy with a picture of each embedded. Brian offered to make a map for us.

We're still searching older documents for the generic rules document; it will be posted on the web site once we identify the most appropriate version.

Brian noted that there are still a few days before gardeners are required to notify each garden whether they will return. He has reassigned four plots at Winthrop and five at Tufts so far.

The wait list has approximately 80 names on it now. We are assigning plots currently to those who applied in mid-2019.

Last year during COVID we offered up tomato and microgreen growing kits through the Mystic Market to provide a bit of access to vegetables for patrons of the market. We discussed giving at least tomato seedlings away again, with or without a bucket to grow them in. Liz offered to discuss the giveaway with the manager of Mystic Market. Riz and Rebecca offered to grow seedlings to donate; once we have a plan we will also email the garden list to request volunteers. We may also ask for donations for growing supplies.

We agreed that this was not a year hold a seed swap but want to in future. Riz noted that Barbara Kerr hopes to offer a seed library at the Medford Library sometime after they are reinstalled.

Amanda will check with City Hall about our roster on their web site which has been edited for some reason. A call for new Commission members is forthcoming from the mayor's office; we hope to expand our ranks soon!