

Medford Community Garden Commission

6/22/21 via Zoom

Present: Brian Duran, Fred Laskey, Rebecca Stevenson, Elise Boerges, Amanda Bowen (recording), Julie Hambrooke Berkman, Syrah McGivern, Liz White, Marie DeBenedictis

La Prise Village: We are working on a proposal and budget for the garden at La Prise. We hope the project will be sponsored by the Board of Health

McNally: We are revisiting a plan to expand McNally and build a fence. Brian suggested trying to find drawings from the City that show a design for expansion. There is a replacement shed for McNally and a group of us will install it soon.

Riverbend: A question about how elderly gardeners and those whose mobility is impaired can fulfill their work hours. Suggestions included serving on committees, contributing to social media, and checking folks at work events.

Membership: A question from a Winthrop gardener prompted a discussion of ways we could make the application process for garden beds more transparent. We agreed that adding information to the application about how to contact us, how to determine where you are on the list, and reminding folks to tell us if they move would be useful additions.

Amanda discussed automating the application with a Tufts student studying coding. This will be hopefully be a project for the fall for the Jumbo Coders.

Future gardens/urban farms: Syrah encouraged us to think about ways we could expand our garden offerings. We'd like to plan some field trips to some of the towns we know are doing good things like Mill City Growers in Lowell, Revere, Salem, East Boston and Beverly.

Syrah has been in touch with a resident at 15 Canal St., a Housing Authority property. He's interested in exploring a garden in that location. Looking online it appears that there might be space for six full size beds.