

Medford Community Garden Commission
7/26/22

Present: Lisa Risley, Fred Laskey, Amanda Bowen, Rebecca Stevenson, Liz White

National Grid: Amanda heard from Owen Wartella, the city engineer, that National Grid is planning another excavation project in the vicinity of the Winthrop Garden similar to the Eversource project of a few years ago. The contact at National Grid forwarded the plan and a map and it appears that part of the garden will have to be taken apart and put back together.

Liz and Amanda will be in touch with the National Grid contact about these plans and what we might want in terms of restitution. Possible outcomes might include the use of the National Grid property on Spring Street for a garden.

Action: Amanda will try to find out what other properties they own in the city.

Garden building: 10 beds will be built at La Prise in August. This is half of what we hope to ultimately build.

The process has finally moved forward for 4 additional beds to be built at McNally this fall. A fence will go around all beds when the project is complete.

Action: Amanda will contact the fence company.

Compost: There has been recent publicity about a compost vendor in Central Mass. whose compost is contaminated with PFAFs. We were recently provided with a report from Black Earth Compost of the test results for their product. Amanda suggested we get a similar report from the vendors we buy from as a point of comparison. Recently we have used Wagon Wheel and Mass Mulch.

Action: Amanda will request reports from the other vendors.

Riverbend: Fred reported that two more fruit trees outside the garden fence had been vandalized. We expressed concern for the destruction of these useful plantings.

Fred also reported that the current wait list for Riverbend has 3 names on it.

Andrews: Amanda reported that there are three gardeners working with the Andrews plots and grateful for the gardening space. We hope that this collaboration with the school can continue and grow.

New locations: Fred wondered if the property adjacent to 93 on Webster St. might be a site for a garden. He discussed it with a contact of his at the Mass. Dept. of Transportation. We thought it might be inconvenient for a garden but an excellent site for new trees.

Action: Fred will ask his contact about the possibility of planting trees on the site.

Tufts student volunteers: Liz noted that all should consider using the Tufts freshman volunteers who can help with work projects each fall. Winthrop will use them to distribute wood chips during the last week in August.

It was agreed that we will not hold a meeting in August.