

Medford Community Garden Commission
September 27, 2022

Attending: Rebecca Stevenson, Amanda Bowen, Kerry Masteller, Lisa Risley, Brian Duran, Ariel Fitzhugh

Tufts: A resident reported on social media a rat sighting near the Tufts garden. Kerry said that she had not seen any and heard no such reports from fellow gardeners but would remind gardeners to clean up ripe produce and be on the lookout. It is possibly a result of the current construction on the adjacent pool deck. Kerry will connect with Riz to write something for local residents.

Kerry reported a good turnout for work days at Tufts this year and good energy among gardeners.

Wait list: Ariel, who is on the wait list, introduced herself and asked in general how the list worked. Members of the Commission introduced themselves and spoke briefly about how the list works.

New gardens: Amanda shared pictures of the expanded McNally garden and the new garden at La Prise and noted that the La Prise beds were almost instantly planted by residents. Brian was able to find a couple of gardeners who are interested in gardening this fall at McNally from the wait list. As there are several beds at McNally which will not be planted until spring, Amanda asked for suggestions for cover crops. Suggestions included winter rye, red clover, hairy vetch and field peas, though the consensus was that it is sometimes hard to suppress them appropriately in the spring.

School gardens: Mel Raelin noted in an email that Missituk has paused new plans from their garden until their rat issue is well under control. A grant was received to build a garden at Roberts but negotiations with the principal are ongoing.

The Andrews garden, renovated this spring with funds raised by Syrah McGivern, was tentatively a success in that students working with Kathi Donoghue planted the new beds which were then tended and additionally planted by resident gardeners drawn from the wait list during the summer. Riz reminded us that thank you notes from students would be welcome by donors to this project. Amanda noted a fair number of weeds around the Andrews beds and thought the cardboard and wood chips installed at La Prise might be a nice touch. Elise and Rebecca will investigate the possibility of making this a community project. Brian offered cardboard when the time comes.

Housing Authority gardens: Following a visit to the Housing Authority gardens this summer, Amanda and Elise discussed the value of offering support and perhaps supplies to MHA gardeners. We agreed to do some outreach as the season begins in the spring.

