

Medford Community Garden Commission

May 23, 2023

Present: Brian Duran, Amanda Bowen, Rebecca Stevenson, Liz White, Bill Tucker, Ryn Piasecki, Kerry Masteller, Elise Boerges, Lisa Risley

School gardens:

Amanda has introduced two of three new gardeners to the Andrews garden. Although we had not heard from any teachers about their use of the garden, just this week they expressed interest in working with the beds.

We hope to get permission to leave a hose on a hose reel on the loading dock next to the spigot for the summer.

Elise reported that the Roberts garden is installed and the beds filled. Each kindergarten class has a bed and there will also be a pollinator garden.

Amanda reported that she has been in touch with the coordinator for the Missituk garden which has been re-envisioned as a pollinator garden.

Pollinator gardens:

The mayor's office has worked with the Tufts pollinator group on a plan for a pollinator garden in front of City Hall. We have been asked to find volunteers to plant it.

In the meantime, the Governor's Ave pollinator garden is being planted June 3.

Housing Authority gardens:

Ten more beds for La Prise (for a total of 20) will be installed starting May 25. We can request funds for a fence in the new fiscal year from the City's block grant funds.

Staff at MHA have requested a few garden beds at Tempone, another property on Allston St.

Speaking of fences, we now need three quotes for fence repair and installation at Tufts, Missituk and La Prise.

Mutual Aid Medford and Somerville:

Elise and Rebecca reported on an effort to share private garden space with would-be gardeners across the two cities. They will share more information about the project so that we can discuss how to promote the effort in Medford.

Tufts survey on gardens:

Kathryn Piasecki, currently a Tufts grad student and intern in the Energy & Environment office, is circulating a survey to gather data for her thesis. We should publicize this effort to all gardeners.

Garden news:

Kerry asked about procedures for rebuilding Tufts beds, some of which are falling apart. She will plan to ask the group for help and suggestions in the fall. There is money in their budget for materials. Some consideration of higher beds for less able gardeners will be part of the planning process.

Liz reported that the Winthrop steering committee has appointed a task force for the various Eversource projects; some new bids will be required.

Other news:

Elise and Amanda plan to schedule a meeting with the mayor to talk about garden priorities.

There will be no June meeting.

Elise noted the presence of a seed library on Edwards Street.