

Medford Community Garden Commission  
September 24, 2024

Present: Rebecca Stevenson, Amanda Bowen, Kerry Masteller, Elise Boerges, Liz White

Introductions: Amanda welcomed Liz White as the newest Commission member. We are very happy to have her!

Tufts: Kerry noted that they are working on a plan to replace garden beds at Tufts, probably with Vego Garden raised beds. They may have to proceed one row of beds at a time for cost reasons. A volunteer effort in the spring to install new beds may be planned.

In other Tufts news, one crumbling bed is completely full of Jerusalem artichokes which will now be banned from the garden. The Curtis-Tufts school is making excellent use finally of the beds assigned to the, very gratifying to the Tufts gardeners.

Winthrop: The Friends have received \$2500 toward the construction of a pergola.

Andrews: The sharing agreement between the school and the Commission is not going completely smoothly. They are supposed to leave us a few beds for our gardeners for the summer but planted all the beds this spring. We weren't successful in assigning the beds to a gardener this summer so Rebecca picked up the slack by watering on her way to her plot at Riverbend. Amanda did a bit of cleanup before the students came back; we will plan a full cleanup with volunteers in November. Rebecca offered to share a copy of the signed agreement with the school ahead of next spring's growing season.

Willis Avenue garden: Suzannah Gerber, a graduate researcher at Tufts, volunteered to work with kids at the Willis garden throughout this past summer. She had great response from a small group of kids and enjoyed her time working with them.

Seed swap and winter sowing demo: We had a lively discussion about the possibility of a winter in-person event at the library. Elise will solicit seeds from various providers; gardeners will be encouraged to share their own seeds; we will start collecting milk jugs for a winter seed-sowing demonstration. The target date will be late February or early March.

City Hall garden: Elise has wanted to approach the mayor for some time about building a temporary garden in the space near City Hall formerly occupied by the farmer's market. She and Liz will coordinate speaking to the mayor about this possibility.

Next meeting: Given holiday schedules, we will hold one hybrid meeting at the Library on Tuesday, November 12, from 7-8PM.