



Uxbridge Community Gardens

January 30, 2012
Lower Town Hall
21 S. Main St, Uxbridge

FEB 16 '12 PM 3:23

Meeting Minutes

Banking

A temporary bank account has been established by **Sandy Lemire** at Unibank. We are able to keep funds in this account for 6 months, while waiting for approval by the BOS as an official town committee. After the approval, we will transfer funds into the town revolving account. **Kris Holt** will co-check balances with Sandy. Checks can be made payable to Uxbridge Community Gardens and mailed to Town Hall.

Opening Day

Tentative opening day is scheduled to coincide with Earth Day, Sat. April 21, 2012.

Distribution of Information

The Gardens application and information will be distributed in the March issue of the New Uxbridge Times. Deadline for submission is February 15th. **Kris Holt** will have information put on the local cable channel when it becomes available.

Mission Statement

A mission statement was drafted by **Sarah Douglas** and **Barbara Hall**. The statement was discussed at the meeting and suggestions made for revision. **Kris Holt** will type the final approved draft. See attached.

Draft Application Form

The draft application form was discussed by the group. **Mary Helfrich** suggested adding an "email buddy" item to the application for those gardeners without access to email. Also a line item will be added for applicants to be able to request a plot be next to a friend if possible. The period to abandon plots and still get a refund was decreased to 4 weeks after opening day (May 20, 2012). Wording for the line item of not tending to plot will be changed to "unkempt" plots, similar to the format established by the Concord group. Also a statement will be included about the need to remove any structures prior to the closing day (Nov. 3, 2012). The following change will be made to "By signing this Application, *I acknowledge that I have read and understand the attached guidelines, and I agree to follow the rules of the Uxbridge Community Gardens.*" A line item will

also be added to limit the number of plots available to 1 per household for this season. **Kim DeMers** will complete the changes to the application.

Organic Gardening

An organic gardening subcommittee has been formed; members include **Mary Helfrich, Ann Hanscom, and Edwina Porter**. The group is meeting with Casey Burns of the Worcester Environmental Council on 2-2-12. The group is hoping to book a speaker to give a presentation at the Uxbridge Public Library on either March 19 or 26, 2012. The group will also draft the guidelines for Rules of Organic Gardening, and they will be attached to the back of the application. **Ken Lepage** volunteered to assist with organic gardening education.

Water

Kim DeMers presented information on water options. 1,000 gallon water storage tanks are a minimum of \$700 each for purchase. The UFD would be willing to fill the tanks. UCG would have to pay for labor (\$160) and water (\$24) costs for each time the tanks are filled. It is estimated that we would need 2,200 gallons of water each season. Richardson Well gave a price quote of \$5,000 to dig a well on the property. The estimated costs to add electricity and hoses, etc. are approximately \$2,000. UCG would pursue finding a local contractor who might be willing to provide discounted or volunteer services to decrease this cost. UYSL was approached by UGC to form a partnership to split the cost of water & electric on the site. UYSL has formed a sub-committee to discuss this option, and expect to be voting on it at their March 13, 2012 meeting. If the UYLS agrees to this option, cost to UCG is approximately \$3,500. The general consensus of the group is that this is a feasible fundraising goal, and that we should wait to decide on water options pending the vote of UYSL.

A suggestion was made to check with the Recreation Commission to see if they would be willing to donate any funds towards the well.

UCG will have to get BOS approval and any necessary permits.

Draft Budget

The line item for copies was increased from \$100 to \$200 to allow for postage. Fund raising goal is set for \$2800 (if using storage tanks) and \$4800 (if paying for ½ well). See attached.

Fundraising

Jen Lutton & Jean McMurray are researching fundraising opportunities. Jen is going to ask the town clerk about use of a 501c3 number for grant applications. They are looking for grants to put toward general operating funds. Any school-based grants would be for program operation expenses, but there are many opportunities. School groups to look into are UHS student council, UHS Destination Imagination, Janice Watt (food service). Annie's Pasta is one possibility. They need a copy of the mission statement to apply, and should have all necessary information by next week.

There would be a waiting period for any grant money.

Ann Hanscom suggested looking into the Heritage Corridor.

Lisa Bertonazzi is going to provide a contact with DCR in Boston.

Other options to look into: Val Stegman at Riverbend Farm, Blackstone Valley Gardeners, business sponsorships (Hannaford's, the banks, etc.). The UCG would provide advertisement & publicity for sponsors.

Dave Lewcon suggested hosting a seedling sale at the Farnum House during the Memorial Day parade. **Kris Holt** will check with Lori Fafard at Taft to see if they would be interested in helping. **Sara Burjeson** will check with Girl Scouts. BVT & Norfolk Aggie are also options to explore.

Additional Information:

- **Matt Benedict** will look into building an orientation board / message center for UCG as part of an Eagle Scout project. He will look at West Hill Dam & the Fairgrounds for design ideas. He will see if the scouts can also assist with staking the lots
- UYSL would like to stake out an area of the land to allow for potential future expansion of the parking lot
- There is no date set for plowing yet
- Compost areas will be discussed. The town compost is NOT organic
- There will be 40-60 20x20 plots available. There was discussion if there are more applicants than plots, we need to decide if it will be a lottery or first-come, first-served system. Also will current renters be given first rights at getting a plot next year?
- Signups for 2013 will probably be due by March 1
- A suggestion was made that the UCG board should sit in the front of the room, facing the "audience" for future meetings
- An orientation / garden introduction meeting will be planned for March 5' 2012. Location and time TBD.

Next UCG Meeting will be held on February 13, 2012, 7:00 PM. Location TBD.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen Holt
UCG Secretary

Barbara Hall	Chairperson	_____
Kim DeMers	Vice Chair	_____ <i>K. DeMers</i>
Sandy Lemire	Treasurer	_____ <i>Sandy Lemire</i>
Kris Holt	Secretary	_____ <i>Kristen Holt</i>