

Watertown Community Gardens Board Meeting Agenda

Weds 11/09/2022 6:30 - 8:00 pm

On Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/8650184962?pwd=Vkh2OXptK0FrNzFjanVSZHhxaWFWQT09>

Our mission is to promote community gardens and gardening in Watertown, with the goal of advancing healthy eating, environmental stewardship, and community connections through gardening.

Welcome and opening check-in introductions with visitors

Approval of [9/21/22 board meeting minutes](#)

President's report (Judy) [updates](#)

Finance Report (Carson)

- [Finance Report](#)
- [YTD Profit and Loss](#) and [Balance Sheet](#)
- 2023 Draft Budget - still in Process

Membership -

Garden reports:

- Arsenal Park Garden (Marilyn)
- Union Market Garden (Angela Robinson)

Committee reports

- [Connections Committee report](#) - Linda and Melinda
- [Strategic partnerships report](#) - Darya
- Communications and website - Marilyn

Discussion topics:

- Annual meeting planning and date, planning process for this meeting
- January 11 board meeting scheduled, do we need a December board meeting?

In attendance (on Zoom): Carson Burrington, David Siegel, Judy Fallows, Darya Mattes

Note that it would be good to schedule these meetings farther ahead so that we can invite others to join us. Ideas for others who can join: Ellen Minunos – was chair of the Resilient Watertown natural resources committee – Judy to reach out.

City has appropriated \$ for a health and human services needs assessment. Some people in that meeting suggested taking a very broad approach to health, including mental health, environmental health, etc. Reach out to committee/keep an eye on the process to see who's involved. David will stay engaged in that process through the WFC and can keep us in the loop.

Open Space and Recreation plan update – we should make sure we're connected to this process as well. Should we send an email to WCG list to delegate people to attend these meetings (OS&R plan and HHS assessment) and keep us connected? Summarize any relevant open space/garden topics and share with us. Discrete tasks rather than joining a committee might be appealing to some.

Conversation with Gore Place about potentially applying for CPA together from Watertown – wait on this.

Conversation with Lanae Handy about complimentary CPA projects that could include a garden (applications that do not come from us, but could include a garden in their plans).

Meet with the new city manager! - find out about partnership opportunities. Where should we seek out partnerships with the City, departments, etc?

JCDS "quasi-abandoned parking area"? Could we access CPA funds for this too? (But restrictions)

Contacting neighbors of gardens in the community to see if they want to help with maintenance.

Shadow parking areas on Pleasant and on Coolidge – research more?

Survey that asks people about gardens and open space? Or include in HHS assessment to reduce survey fatigue?

We should take a broad approach to these plans of expanding green space – not just garden beds themselves, but also other benefits to open space.

Buying property to be maintained as open space in perpetuity is very different from leasing/borrowing space from a private entity, but we can pursue both.

Someone in real estate could help us understand what is allowed/possible on different properties.

Committee reports – provided in writing to keep board members up to date on committee work when no board action or decision is required

- Strategic Partnerships - Darya.
Notes from the 7/19 and 8/9 meetings can be found [here](#).
- Communications and website committee report - Marilyn and Judy
Notes from 8/22 meeting found [here](#)
- Community Connections Committee- Linda Relson and Melinda Dennis
Notes from 9/12 meeting and previous notes found [here](#)