

Clinton Community Garden Steering Committee minutes

Venue: Fountain House and Zoom

Date: 13 January 2025, 7:30pm.

Present: Andrew Begg, Naomi Haber, Clarence Klugh, Mauricio Marron, Nicole Siani.

Absent: Homar Barcena, Catherine Lafferty, Richard O'Brien, Tatiana Pena.

1) Plot renewals:

The Committee noted that the plot renewal letters were updated and overhauled last year, so this year the only updates that are required should be the dates for 2026.

The Committee agreed February 20, 2026 would be the deadline for this year's plot renewal forms.

Nikki, Mauricio and Naomi will meet in the coming week to stuff envelopes for mailing.

2) Front garden bed assignments:

The Committee noted that there are currently two front garden beds available, and which need to be assigned.

The Committee agreed to send out a call for expressions of interest. The Committee agreed that the process for selecting the new front bed gardeners should be done in accordance with the draft Annex B in the by-laws amendments. This is because draft Annex B is based on the Committee's past practice, and the Annex will be adopted before the Committee takes the decisions on the assignments.

The record keeper agreed to draft the email and submit it to the Chair for sending out.

3) Front garden interference:

The Committee noted that the fig tree in the front garden has been pruned without the knowledge of the garden member assigned to that plot. The Committee noted that tree pruning is coordinated by the Steering Committee for the entire garden, and whoever undertook the pruning did so without authorization from the Committee. In addition, the pruning was inconsistent with the garden rules that require members, key holders and visitors not to tamper or interfere with the plants in plots that are not assigned to them.

The Committee agreed to try to find out who might be responsible. Further action will depend on greater clarity around the circumstances.

Naomi agreed to draft an email to everyone on the garden mailing list seeking information about the pruning, and reminding members of the rules. The Chair will send out the email on behalf of the Steering Committee.

The Committee agreed to explore at a later date the possibility of installing signs informing garden visitors not to remove or tamper with any foliage or fruit.

The Chair agreed to ask Greenthumb if they have any signage that we could use.

4) Admin issues

The Chair raised an unfinished project to clean up the outreach database, which contains lists of all keyholders, plus members, and local stakeholders.

The Committee agreed that the mail-chimp database needs to be assigned to an “owner” to ensure that it is kept up to date, and that this should be part of the assignment of officer roles for the first meeting of the new Steering Committee in March following the annual meeting.

5) Annual meeting

The Committee agreed that the date of the annual meeting would be Tuesday 3 March.

This means that the deadline for nominations for the Steering Committee will be 7pm on Tuesday 17 February.

Notice of the date of the meeting is required to be given by Tuesday 10 February at the latest.

6) Merch and fundraising

The Committee agreed to come back to the need to brainstorm around new merchandise ideas at its next meeting.

The Committee agreed to explore avenues to sell the remaining honey from the 2025 harvest. Various Committee members agreed to explore options and report back at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.