



# Greenbelt Community Garden Club

## 2025 Membership Meeting Minutes

**March 4, 2025 - Annual Plotholders' Meeting ~ 64 Gardeners in Attendance**

| Agenda Item                      | Notes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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| Welcome                          | <p><a href="#"><u>LINK TO PRESENTATION</u></a></p> <p>President Ellen Bastio greeted members and introduced Executive Committee members: Stacey Cumberbatch- Membership, Hannah Hethmon- Treasurer, Martha Tomecek- President Emerita, Melissa Mackey- Secretary, Garden Coordinators: Bob Trumbule- Hamilton, Eric Raun- Henry's Hollow- Teresa Maxwell- Gardenway</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Nominees for Executive Committee | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nominee for Membership Coordinator of the Executive Committee: Judy Kendall, the only respondent, introduced herself. A gardener in Henry's Hollow since 2019, Judy was previously the membership coordinator for the Hyattsville Community Garden Club and managed that waitlist.</li> <li>• Members were asked if there were nominations from the floor. There were not.</li> <li>• For members who did not use the link to vote for Membership Coordinator at the end of the membership meeting on 3/4/25, look for an emailed ballot that will be sent to members after the Annual Meeting. Please vote by March 11.</li> </ul> |
| Plot Renewal Process             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The plot renewal process is the same as last year payment can be made by PayPal on our website or by check or cash given to your Garden Coordinator. If you want to keep your plot, this must be done before April 4.</li> <li>• First, find your plot number on the map emailed to you. Plot numbers haven't changed. So, if you know your number, you don't need to use the map. Once you have your plot number, use the link to find what you need to pay. Fees are unchanged.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                        |
| Financial Update                 | <p>Treasurer Hannah Hethmon reported that our bank balance is \$6,700. In 2024 dues/plot fees totaled \$2,300. In 2024 Expenses included \$3,449. for the construction of 2 pilot water catchment systems, and purchase of College Park Public Works compost for all three garden areas. Money was given to GHI for the water bill. We purchased a pizza lunch to thank Greenbelt Public Works employees for their support.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

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| <b>Water Catchment Systems</b>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Gardenway was chosen for the first demonstration catchment systems due to lack of water access. Member concern about water availability in the 2022 poll has been addressed by building two pilot water catchment systems, one large for all of Gardenway to use, and one small for an individual plot, They were designed and built by a member volunteer with the help of his brother. His plans and material list are available on the GCGC website. He is willing to consult with individual members; if you are interested, let your garden coordinator know.</li> <li>● We hope to build another large water catchment in a different garden area.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Compost</b>                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Shortly after we purchased 6 c. yards of compost from College Park in 2024, we were invited to benefit from a USDA/city of Greenbelt compost grant project. In the fall of 2024, ten c. yards of compost were delivered to each garden area by Compost Crew, Inc. A chemical study of the compost will be sent to members.<br/>The second, and last, free compost delivery will be made in the summer of 2024.<br/>After that, we can decide which compost to purchase in the future.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Waitlist</b>                     | <p>Waitlist Coordinator, Stacey Cumberbatch, reported that there are 29 people on the waitlist. More will be added during spring. We have an obligation to those on the waitlist and must follow garden club rules by asking for the forfeiture of unused plots. In about 30 days we will know how many plots were not renewed.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Neglected Gardens Next Steps</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The 3 garden coordinators will send via email: the recorded presentations, ballots for voting, and reminders to pay for plot renewal within 30 days</li> <li>● (PayPal on website, cash or check to Garden Coordinator before April 4).</li> <li>● Let your garden coordinator know if there is a reason your plot is not cared for.</li> <li>● Gardeners have a responsibility to manage weeds in garden and fence rows.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Garden Reminders</b>             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ellen announced our Spring Garden Cleanup, the weekend of April 5,6.</li> <li>● Trash pick-up will be on Monday, April 7.</li> <li>● Complete your garden plot renewal</li> <li>● Let your garden coordinator know of any concerns, including a request for woodchips or mulch for your garden area.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

**Invasive Plant  
Identification and  
Management**

- Do not contact Public Works directly. At their request, we have a designated contact person.

Bob Trumbule spoke about some of the most invasive plants in our gardens and how to control them. He is happy to answer any questions:

Japanese stilt grass, very difficult to eradicate, especially when allowed to go to seed. Mowing is critical to help manage this annual grass.

Porcelain Berry- a vine that spreads by bulblets; pull from fences before it goes to seed. Keep fence lines mowed.

Lesser Celandine- also known as fig buttercup. Low growing, early green foliage, yellow flower. Will carpet ground. Small bulblets make it very difficult to remove. Solarization for 3 months under clear plastic is the most effective cover.

Mugwort, dense growth, perennial. Removal difficult. Can grow to be 2-5 feet tall. Solarization with clear plastic weighted down.

Bob commented that GCGC has for years asked the city to sponsor community gardens in other parts of the city where there is interest.

Bonnie Schrack expressed interest in forming a group to contact Greenbelt City Council in support of additional garden areas in the city.

Gardener and City Council member, Danielle McKinney said there is a city working group that will discuss how to set up and maintain community gardens in Greenbelt East and West. She offered to send the working group information to GCGC members.

Minutes submitted by Melissa Mackey