

**Northampton Community Garden
Garden Committee Meeting
November 13, 2018
Minutes**

Present: Blaise Bisailon, Linda Bisailon, Larri Cochran, Frankie Dack, Dan Ladd, Christie Peterson, Mimi Teghtsoonian (Sec'y.), Stephanie Vasiliades, Betsey Wolfson

1. Minutes of our October 17th meeting, as distributed by e-mail, were approved.
2. We welcomed Christie Peterson as a new member of the Committee.
3. We discussed the negative reaction of some gardeners to our proposal to the Community Preservation Commission (CPC) to control the Japanese knotweed on Garden property. We acknowledged the concerns of those gardeners, and--indeed--some of us share them. We also believe that, according to our research, a targeted application of glyphosate, along with other measures, offers the only proven method of controlling knotweed. Because knotweed has travelled into the Garden proper, some action is urgent to prevent its spread throughout gardeners' plots.

We also noted that glyphosate products are widely used by local homeowners and by DPW: It is inexpensive and effective. Thus, our proposed use would add only a small amount to what is already present in Northampton.

We agreed that we would not withdraw our proposal from consideration by the CPC.

4. We had a general discussion about inspections. Some felt there were too many, but all agreed that it is a problem that after the midsummer inspection, there was not adequate enforcement, with the result that some plots were essentially abandoned for the last half of the growing season. No solution was proposed.

It was agreed to eliminate the Last Chance inspection, but move the Fall Inspection to a later date, in the last week of October.

5. A draft of 2019 registration forms is available on line. Betsey requested committee members to review them and send corrections to her.
6. We should cut down willows, poplars, box elders, mulberries, and other unwanted trees. Dan will continue to do this.
7. E-mails will be sent to people who failed the last inspection.
8. Blaise will negotiate with the mower servicer about picking up and checking out mowers. He will check out prices on Consumer Reports' top recommendation during the winter.
9. Our next meeting TBA.