



BLACK MOUNTAIN TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

February 12, 2024 | Regular Meeting | Time: 6:00 P.M.

Town Hall Council Chambers | 160 Midland Avenue, Black Mountain, NC 28711

The Black Mountain Town Council held their regular meeting on Monday, February 12, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Town Hall, 160 Midland Avenue, Black Mountain, NC 28711.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor C. Michael Sobol called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following members in attendance: Mayor C. Michael Sobol, Vice Mayor Archie Pertiller, Council Member Alice Berry, Council Member Doug Hay, Council Member Pam King, and Council Member Ryan Stone.

The following staff members were present: Josh Harrold, Town Manager; Wesley Barker, Town Clerk; Angela Reece, Project & Facilities Manager; Josh Henderson, Recreation & Parks Director; John Coffey, Fire Chief; Jamey Matthews, Public Works Director. Attorney Brian Gulden was also present in place of Town Attorney Craig Justus.

Mayor Sobol led those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence, then read the ethics statement.

The Town Council added an agenda item under "Communications from Staff, Councils, Commissions and Agencies" for a presentation on the 2025 county reappraisal.

2. PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS

Mayor C. Michael Sobol read a proclamation recognizing February as African American History Month in Black Mountain.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Katherine Achtemeier, 402 W. Connally St., spoke on pickleball in Black Mountain and suggested there be more than the four (4) dedicated pickleball courts proposed.

Bill Boyd, 13 Tree Top Pl., spoke on pickleball courts recommending the Council consider six (6) courts. He also spoke on other Cragmont Park renovations.

Lisa Williams, 108 Enthoffer St., spoke on the advantages of pickleball including social interaction and accessibility to everyone stating pickleball should be elevated to the level of other sports in the Town with the need for dedicated courts.

Cecily Hines, 323 Pinnacle Dr., spoke on pickleball and its social and mental benefits and the need for at least six (6) courts. She stated any age and person can play pickleball which leads to a healthier community.

Larry Pearlman, 203 N. Park Ln., spoke on pickleball being the fastest growing sport in the world and it is not just a sport, but a community. He requests the Council proceed with six (6) pickleball courts.

4. COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF, COUNCILS, COMMISSIONS & AGENCIES

A. Buncombe County Reappraisal 2025. R. Keith Miller, Property Assessor for Buncombe County, gave a presentation to the Council on the 2025 property reappraisals for all real and personal property in the county. Keith stated Black Mountain has 5,045 parcels of real estate, 387 business accounts, 277 personal property accounts and 7,535 motor vehicles totaling \$1.75 billion in taxable value for FY24. Keith stated Buncombe County attempts to reappraise all real property on a four-year schedule, with the NC General Statute requiring counties to reappraise at least once every eight years. The 2025 reappraisal will be effective January 1, 2025. The reappraisal is completed using mass appraisal methodology. Keith discussed community outreach and the next steps for this upcoming reappraisal. Further, he explained the technology and tools that appraisers use for this work and how property owners can interact using the Buncombe County Property Assessment website (www.tax.buncombecounty.org) and new mobile app entitled "MyValueBC." Keith reviewed the schedule for the 2025 reappraisals. In closing, he stated the property assessment estimates the property value only, and the governing boards, and taxing districts, determine the tax rate for the jurisdiction during the annual budget process.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Adoption of Meeting Minutes: December 6, 2023 Special Called Meeting; December 7, 2023 Agenda Workshop Meeting; December 11, 2023 Regular Meeting; December 14, 2023 Special Called Meeting; January 4, 2024 Agenda Workshop Meeting; January 8, 2024 Regular Meeting.

Council Member Pam King made a motion to approve all minutes as presented with the one-word change to the December 14, 2023 special called meeting minutes as discussed. A vote of 5-0 in favor.

B. Monthly Property Tax Collector Report.

Council Member Pam King made a motion to approve the tax collector report as presented. A vote of 5-0 in favor.

C. Amendment to Contract for Audit Accounts.

This item is to extend the contract to audit accounts for FY ending June 30, 2023 with Gould Killian CPA Group, PA, to conclude the audit as of January 31, 2024. The amended audit contract will be sent to the Local Government Commission (LGC) by the auditors.

Council Member Pam King made a motion to approve the amendment to the contract for audit accounts. A vote of 5-0 in favor.

D. Consideration of Mountain Heritage Trout Waters MOU.

The Mountain Heritage Trout Waters program is a cooperative effort between the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission and local governments to encourage trout fishing as a heritage tourism activity in western North Carolina cities. Currently, 17 cities participate in the program where cities provide public access to a trout stream that runs through or is adjacent to the city. The fisheries committee will approve this MOU at their July meeting, and once approved, Black Mountain will be included on maps and have additional opportunities to promote urban trout fishing timing in our economic development, recreational programming, environmental engagement and education efforts.

Council Member Pam King made a motion to approve the following MOU. A vote of 5-0 in favor.

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN TOWN OF BLACK MOUNTAIN AND
THE NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION FOR
RECOGNITION AS A MOUNTAIN HERITAGE TROUT CITY**

THIS AGREEMENT, made and entered into this 12th day of February 2024, by and between the Town of Black Mountain, North Carolina, hereinafter called the **Town**, and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, hereinafter called the **Commission**.

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the **Commission** is authorized to conduct a program of fishery management for the benefit of the citizens of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the **Commission** is authorized to establish and implement a Mountain Heritage Trout Waters Program; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable for the **Town** to participate in the Mountain Heritage Trout Waters Program in order to promote the goals of said Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual advantages likely to result from this agreement and the respective obligations assumed herein,

THE COMMISSION AGREES:

1. To provide technical assistance required to execute this Agreement;
2. To delineate an agreed segment of the Swannanoa River within which the Mountain Heritage Trout Waters fishing license will be valid;
3. To incorporate the specific segment of the Swannanoa River into rule or regulation consistent with other Designated Public Mountain Trout Waters;
4. To design a **Town**-specific brochure to inform the public of the existence and elements of the Mountain Heritage Trout Waters Program; and
5. To formally recognize the **Town** as a Mountain Heritage Trout City.

THE TOWN AGREES:

1. To secure unrestricted public access through lease agreement, easement, or other means to the agreed segment of the Swannanoa River;
2. To permit ingress, egress and regress to **Commission** personnel engaged in executing this Agreement; and
3. To produce and distribute the **Town**-specific brochure designed by the **Commission** to inform the public of the existence and elements of the Mountain Heritage Trout Waters Program.

IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED:

1. That this Agreement shall become effective as soon as signed by both parties;
2. That this Agreement may be amended only by mutual agreement of the parties and may be terminated in its entirety for cause by either party upon sixty (60) days written notice to the other party;
3. That this Agreement is made under and shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of North Carolina, without regard to its conflict of laws rules, and within which State all matters, whether sounding in contract, tort or otherwise, relating to its validity, construction, interpretation and enforcement shall be determined;
4. That the parties shall comply with all laws, ordinances, codes, rules, regulations, and licensing requirements that are applicable to the conduct of its business and its

performance in accordance with this Agreement, including those of federal, state, and local agencies having jurisdiction and/or authority;

5. That during, and after the term hereof during the relevant period required for retention of records by State law (G.S. 121-5, 132-1 et seq., typically five years), the State Auditor and any Purchasing Agency's internal auditors shall have access to persons and records related to this Agreement to verify accounts and data affecting performance under the Agreement, as provided in G.S. 143-49(9). However, if any audit, litigation or other action arising out of or related North Carolina General Terms and Conditions in any way to this project is commenced before the end of the such retention of records period, the records shall be retained for one (1) year after all issues arising out of the action are finally resolved or until the end of the record retentions period, whichever is later;
6. That neither party shall be deemed to be in default of its obligations hereunder if and so long as it is prevented from performing such obligations as a result of events beyond its reasonable control, including, without limitation, fire, power failures, any act of war, hostile foreign action, nuclear explosion, riot, strikes or failures or refusals to perform under subcontracts, civil insurrection, earthquake, hurricane, tornado, other catastrophic epidemic or pandemic, natural event or Act of God;
7. That notwithstanding any other term or provision in this Agreement, nothing herein is intended nor shall be interpreted as waiving any claim or defense based on the principle of sovereign immunity or other State or federal constitutional provision or principle that otherwise would be available to the State under applicable law; and
8. That nothing in this Agreement shall obligate either party to any conditions not specifically stated herein.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement the day and year first written above.

6. PUBLIC HEARING- *none.*

7) CITIZEN COMMENTS

Marian Kaminitz, Treasurer for Friends of the Community Gardens, gave a short presentation to Council about the Dr. John Wilson Community Garden Strategic Plan highlighting some priorities and needed repairs.

8) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Lake Tomahawk Playground Upgrades.

Recreation & Parks Director Josh Henderson stated at the December 11, 2023 meeting, Council members were in consensus to pursue playground equipment which featured a freestanding swing set, three (3) STEM play elements and nature play stumps. Further, this included installation, shipping, repainting of current structure, pour-in-place (PIP) surfacing, site preparation for the PIP surfacing and tax. This would be located to the right of the current playground structure at Lake Tomahawk. Initially, the design and cost estimates totaled \$144,802.99. In 2023, \$100,000 was budgeted from ARPA funds for playground upgrades. However, Josh explained that equipment pricing increased for 2024, and the new total cost estimate was \$147,279.83. Discussion ensued about the PIP surfacing compared to other materials, stating PIP surfacing would allow for more accessibility. Further, it was confirmed that the playground equipment currently in place will remain, including the sandbox.

Council Member Doug Hay made a motion to approve the project design and updated cost estimates as presented, which includes the Pour in Place (PIP) surfacing. A vote of 5-0 in favor.

9) NEW BUSINESS

A. Consideration of Resolution to Apply for the Streamflow Rehabilitation Program (StRAP) Grant for Stream Debris Removal Along Flat Creek River.

Planning Director Jessica Trotman stated the Town successfully received StRAP funding in 2022 and 2023 for stream debris removal along the Swannanoa River and would like to apply for additional funding in 2024 for streambank restoration along Flat Creek River. This grant has no required matching funds and is provided by the N.C. Department of Agriculture. Jessica stated the Engineer is currently working to develop the scope of the project.

Council Member Alice Berry made a motion to approve the following resolution. A vote of 5-0 in favor.

RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR STREAMFLOW REHABILITATION PROGRAM (StRAP) GRANT FOR FLAT CREEK RIVER

Resolution #R-24-06

WHEREAS, the Streamflow Rehabilitation Program (StRAP) was created by the NC General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, StRAP provides grants to projects that help reduce flooding and restore streams across North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, StRAP allocates money for projects that protect and restore the integrity of drainage infrastructure of North Carolina's waterways; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Black Mountain applied for funding for stream debris removal along the Swannanoa River in 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Black Mountain received \$6,940 in StRAP funding in 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Black Mountain cleared one debris jam consisting of four trees along the Swannanoa River near Riverwalk Park; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Black Mountain applied for additional funding in 2023 to continue stream debris removal along the Swannanoa River; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Black Mountain received an additional \$71,816.00 in StRAP funding; and

WHEREAS, the StRAP program does not require any matching funds from the Town of Black Mountain ;and

WHEREAS, the Town of Black Mountain seeks to apply for funding for stream bank restoration along Flat Creek River.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Black Mountain Town Council bless Town staff to apply for funding through the StRAP for stream bank restoration along Flat Creek River.

READ, APPROVED AND ADOPTED, by a vote of 5 to 0 on this 12th day of February 2024.

B. Consideration of Dr. John Wilson Community Garden Strategic Plan.

Lucille Nelson, Garden Manager, gave a presentation to the Council on the proposed 10-Year Strategic Plan for the Dr. John Wilson Community Garden. Lucille went over the current programs at the garden, what the garden offers and 2023 accomplishments. She then explained staff and representatives from the Friends of the Community Garden have been working to develop a 10-year strategic plan for the future of the garden. The plan outlines the history, mission, vision, achievements, operational goals, capital goals, programmatic goals, and recommendations from the comprehensive recreation master plan. Lucille briefly covered each subject in her presentation.

Vice Mayor Archie Pertiller made a motion to adopt the Dr. John Wilson Community Garden Strategic Plan as presented. A vote of 5-0 in favor.

****A copy of this approved Strategic Plan is included at the end of these minutes.****

C. Cragmont Park Renovations.

Recreation & Parks Director Josh Henderson gave an overview of this item stating in FY 24, \$492,000 was budgeted to fund renovations at Cragmont Park. These renovations included: restrooms, parking lot paving, path paving, basketball court repairs, tennis court repairs, and pickleball courts. After gathering estimates from various contractors, the estimates exceeded the budgeted amounts for these renovation elements. The Council was asked to provide directions on the next steps for the renovations at Cragmont Park. Discussion then ensued among Council Members and staff. Following the discussion, Council Members were in consensus to proceed with the following: tennis court repairs, basketball court repairs, restrooms, path paving, park safety lighting (as recommended from the master plan), gravel parking lot (not paved), and six (6) pickleball courts with assistance from the pickleball organization to help raise funds for the additional two courts. After further discussion about pickleball courts, Council Member Ryan Stone suggested working with the Town Attorney and creating an official MOU between the Town and the pickleball organization authorizing fundraising efforts for an extra two (2) pickleball courts, which was above the originally budgeted four (4) courts. Another short discussion ensued about court lighting needs and enhancements.

D. Town Newsletter Discussion.

Town Manager Josh Harrold updated the Town Council on a recent inquiry about including the newly re-launched Town newsletter in the monthly water bills, stating it would be a significant cost annually. Currently, the Town newsletter is posted on the website, on social media, sent out via the Town's NotifyMe subscribers, and printed copies are available. Further, staff will include a QR code and website link on the water bills directing customers to the newsletter.

10) COMMUNICATION

- A. Attorney Brian Gulden stated Attorney Craig Justus had recently met with department heads concerning 160D updates. Further, Brian spoke on property notice of violation updates on several town properties, stating the Attorney's office is working with Town staff on these.
- B. Town Manager Josh Harrold had no updates.

11) COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL

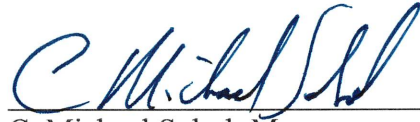
Council Member Pam King commented on the upcoming Primary Election on March 5, 2024 and thanked the Active Mobility Commission for the Valentine 5K work.

12) CLOSED SESSION- *G.S. § 143-318.11 (a)(5)- To establish, or to instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating (i) the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease.*

Council Member Ryan Stone made a motion to go into closed session as allowed by G.S. § 143-318 (a)(5). A vote of 5-0 in favor. The time was 8:11 p.m.

The Town Council returned from Closed Session went back into Open Session at 8:44 p.m.

13) ADJOURNMENT- *With no further business to be discussed, Mayor C. Michael Sobol adjourned the meeting at 8:44 p.m.*


C. Michael Sobol, Mayor

ATTEST:


Wesley M. Barker, Town Clerk

Strategic Plan for the Dr. John Wilson Community Garden

1. Dr. John Wilson Community Garden – History, Mission, Vision, and Achievements

Dr. John Wilson, a Black Mountain pediatrician, established the first iteration of the community garden in 2004. He understood the interrelated importance of people 1) growing and eating nutrient-dense food, 2) staying active and being outside, and 3) building relationships with neighbors and community. The community garden's **Mission: "Grow, Share, Educate"** exemplifies and aligns with several aspects identified in the Town of Black Mountain's 2021 Comprehensive Plan (Elevate Black Mountain), the 2022 Black Mountain Recreation and Parks Long Range Plan, and the 2023 Buncombe County Health Assessment & Improvement Plan, referenced below.

Created to encompass the needs of future generations, the Dr. John Wilson Community Garden (DRJWC Garden) **Vision Statement** is: **"To establish community gardens as an essential and effective strategy to create and maintain thriving healthy relationships between the earth and all living organisms, and thereby remedy the complex challenges of food security and wellness for the people of Black Mountain."** Programmatically, the DRJWC Garden aspires to be a model for community gardens in our region and beyond by sharing methods, systems and expertise.

The DRJWC Garden contributes to the town's economic development by providing access to local foods, directly addressing Elevate Black Mountain's Goal 4.6 (A connected food economy with access to local foods). The Garden donates 5,000-6,000 pounds of produce per year to Bounty & Soul to be distributed to those in need. Additionally, the Garden attracts tourists and residents as a destination to enjoy. See Goal 2.6. (An active environment that supports physical activity and healthy living) and Goal 3.2. (Conserved Green spaces).

The DRJWC Garden also advances Elevate Black Mountain's Goal 3.3 (A sustainable and resilient watershed that uses natural approaches to address stormwater) and Action Items A.3.3 (Reduce waste) and A.3.5 (Conduct stream restoration and preservation). The DRJWC Garden has a composting system which received 6,800 pounds of kitchen waste during 2022 and is seeing increased use in 2023. In partnership with Warren Wilson College, the garden is working to restore land along the Swannanoa River bank. The Garden's numerous ecological impacts include improving soil fertility, increasing biodiversity, and educating home growers on organic methods of production thereby reducing damaging chemical use on land in Black Mountain.

Buncombe County's 2023 Health Assessment identified diabetes, heart disease, cardiovascular disease, and mental health problems as major health challenges.. The Garden promotes good physical, mental, and social health of the people involved through its programs. Annually, over 400 people volunteer to work in the Garden; in 2022, recorded volunteer hours totaled 2,124. Over 100 people rent plots in the garden.

2. TOBM 2022 Recreation and Parks Master Plan Recommendations for the Garden

- I. A Site-Specific Park Master Plan should be implemented and include community input (p. 91), (see 3.a. below).
- II. The existing metal roof shed should be replaced with a new barn type structure that includes an office and classroom (p. 91), (see 4.c. below).
- III. An accessible walking path should be constructed from the parking area. Newly constructed amenities must meet ADA requirements (p. 91), (see 3.a., 3.c. and 4.a., 4.b., and 4.c. below).
- IV. Water and sewer service should be extended to the site (p. 91), (see 3.d., 3.e., 4.b., and 4.c. below).
- V. Increase the Garden's marketing presence via the Town website and other social media (p. 91), (see 5.e. below).
- VI. Facility needs regular staffing (p. 91), (see 3.k. below).

VII. Contiguous property should be acquired if possible (p. 85), (see 4.d. below).

3. Operational Goals (< \$25K/goal) for the next 2 years (2024 - 2026)

- a. *Create a site plan to guide future structures and hardscaping.* Long-term goals include bathrooms, a greenhouse/glasshouse, and a new facility. Result: supporting document for long-term goals. Conceptual site plan is in development at the time of this document.
 - i. Action items:
 1. Gather relevant existing data on site
 2. Find consultant and invite to site
 3. Hold charette to get community input
 4. Draw up conceptual site plan
- b. *Repair/improve barn structure.* The barn has many leaks, rotting floorboards, and wall structure is compromised. This is a risk to employees, volunteers, and gardeners working in the barn and prevents appropriate storage for tools, amendments, and seeds. Result: safe work environment.
 - i. Action items:
 1. Building inspector site visit completed; report expected soon
 2. Price out job - Estimate \$20K
- c. *Build inviting covered sitting areas.* Result: Multipurpose, accessible areas for visitors and gardeners to gather for educational events and for enjoyment and connection.
 - i. Action items:
 1. Research options for structures once the conceptual site plan has been completed.
 2. Price out job
- d. *Pipe municipal potable water to the garden for drinking and handwashing.* Result: improve sanitation, reduce risks of dehydration or water-borne diseases for citizens by providing easier access to clean, drinkable water.
 - i. Action items:
 1. Site potable water spigots
 2. Price out job
 3. Potentially implement project through Public Works Department
- e. *Upgrade irrigation water from Swannanoa River with a filtration system.* Result: improve sanitation, decrease risk of water-borne illnesses spreading to food crops.
 - i. Action items:
 1. Request filtration system plan from Craig Siska
 2. Price out project - Estimate \$12 - \$15K
- f. *Inspect and sanitize rain barrels behind Grey Eagle.* Result: improve sanitation, decrease risk of water-borne illnesses spreading to food crops.
 - i. Action items:
 1. Price out project
 2. Implement project through Public Works Department
- g. *Repair leaf collection bins.* The collection bins are falling apart. Leaf donations from local landscaping businesses and Town leaf collection are used in the garden to mulch beds and build soil. Result: sturdier long-term structures and ability to divert more organic waste from landfill.
 - i. Action items:
 1. Price out project - Estimate \$15K
 2. Implement project through Public Works Department
- h. *Run electricity to the barn for 4-5 outlets.* Result: Provide a safe environment, lighting, and ability to charge tools and equipment.

- i. Action items:
 - 1. Determine where power line ends
 - 2. Receive consult on necessary work to run power and set up outlets
 - 3. Price out project
 - 4. Implement project through Public Works Department or contractor
- i. *Improve tool storage security through labeling and better storage.* The garden owns many high-quality tools used by volunteers, gardeners, and interns. Result: provide best care for Town property by reducing lost/stolen tools.
 - i. Action items:
 - 1. Make plan for resilient, visible labeling
 - 2. Label and inventory all tools
 - 3. Make a plan for secure and organized storage of tools
 - 4. Include tool storage needs in plans for future greenhouse and/or barn plans
- j. *Upgrade and/or replace current signage.* Result: Increase awareness of the DRJWC Garden's programming and reduce improper harvesting by passersby.
 - i. Action items:
 - 1. Design signs
 - 2. Site areas to install signage
 - 3. Price out - Estimate \$9K
 - 4. Have signs made and installed
- k. *Create an Assistant Garden Manager position.* Explore various options to fulfill needs (Americorp, internship, part-time staff, contractor). Result: properly meet the increasing breadth and demands of the program.
 - i. Action items:
 - 1. Determine job description
 - 2. Research options and funding sources
 - 3. Fill position

4. Capital Goals ($\geq$ \$25K/goal) for the Next 7 Years (2024 - 2030)

3-5 Year Goals

- a. *Build a glasshouse/greenhouse and cold frames.* Since 2022, the Town has had to pay approx. \$2K/year for seedlings that were previously donated by Banner Greenhouses. Result: ability to start seedlings, reducing costs for the Town, extension of growing season, and an additional resource for the gardeners. 2023 cost estimate: \$75-\$85K

5-7 Year Goals

- b. *Install permanent public bathrooms.* Currently, the Garden's Port-a-Jon is used heavily by disc-golfers, greenway trail users, gardeners, and volunteers. Result: more comfortable and sanitary experience for all Garden and Park users. 2023 cost estimate: \$100 - \$150K
- c. *Build a new structure to properly support the garden's operation and programming.* The insufficient, open-air structure limits programming: workshops are weather-dependent; shelf storage is lacking; the open environment increases damage to tools and equipment; mice damage materials; and the garden cannot process any crops. Result: With an upgraded facility, the Garden could increase yield, provide a more robust array of educational opportunities and programming, and be a highlight for the Town. 2023 cost estimate: \$650K
- d. *Contiguous Property Acquisition:* Per the Recreation and Parks Master Plan, when property that is contiguous to existing parks becomes available, all reasonable efforts should be made to acquire the property.

5. Programmatic Goals ($\leq$ \$2K/goal) for the next 5 years (2024 - 2028)

The DRJWC Garden is already established as a model program. Through each of the following goals, the DRJWC Garden aspires to model organized management, conscious leadership, environmental stewardship, and preventative care for communities. Achieving these goals will increase the impact and value of the DRJWC Garden and community gardens throughout the region.

- a. *Share management systems with other community gardens, nonprofit farms, and other aligned growers (e.g.: harvest and planting data records, composting systems, and volunteer engagement processes).* Currently in process. Result: increase connectivity and knowledge sharing among local food growers which will positively impact the area's economy.
- b. *Enrich curriculum for the internship program.* Currently in process. Result: Broadened intern experiences by providing in-depth educational opportunities.
- c. *Pursue professional development for Garden Manager.* Currently in process. Result: grow capacity, creativity, and effectiveness of manager.
- d. *Improve care of existing garden perennials and increase number of food-bearing trees on property.* Result: healthier trees will produce more food and provide shade, diversity, and beauty.
- e. *Increase Garden's visibility through social media and marketing via the Town's website, email, Facebook, Instagram, etc., as well as continued partnerships and other viable avenues.* Result: more engagement and recognition from residents and visitors.
- f. *Expand participation in educational programs and events hosted by the Garden.* Result: reach a wider audience with education about healthy living, gardening, ecological resilience, etc.