

SOUTHINGTON COMMUNITY GARDEN ASSOCIATION

****BY-LAWS****

1. Name of Group: Southington Community Garden Association
Legal Address: Planning Office, Town of Southington Town Hall, 75 Main Street, Southington CT 06489
2. Purpose: The purpose of this association is to manage and maintain the Town of Southington Community Garden(s). The East Street Garden shall fall under these rules and by-laws in the 2012 season. It is the association's goal to create and maintain productive community gardens for the benefit of Southington residents, to educate the community at large in the value of organic gardening/ land use practices and foster community involvement to enhance the lives of local residents.
3. This association membership will be open to all current participants in the community garden and the Town Manager of the Town of Southington or other Town representatives as the Manager sees fit.
4. Meetings: Association meetings shall be held monthly in order to elect officers for the upcoming year and discuss current initiatives. Other meetings will be held as needed, as determined by the directors. Meetings shall be generally run under Roberts Rules. All members shall be notified of upcoming meetings either by electronic mail or US Postal Service.
5. Officers:
 - 6.1. President: Shall run the meetings and manage the day-to-day operation of the garden. The President shall serve as Director.
 - 6.2. Vice President: Shall perform the duties of the President when absent.
 - 6.3. Secretary: Shall keep minutes of the meetings, store any necessary records and write any needed correspondence on behalf of the association.
 - 6.4. Treasurer: Shall keep track of the finances of the association and report to the directors at each meeting. An account shall be held with the Southington Finance Dept.. Any checks or withdrawals shall require the signatures of at least two officers.
6. Election and Terms of Officers:
 - 7.1 The terms of the officers shall be two(2) years, elections shall be held during the January meeting of the association. Any vacancies shall be filled at the next meeting of the association in the normally prescribed method.

7.2. Elections shall be nomination from the floor and voted upon by the entire membership. Whoever gets the most votes is elected to the position.

7. Dissolution of Association: The association can be dissolved at any time by a majority of the membership. The association will automatically dissolve six months after failure to hold a meeting.

8. Rules of the Garden:

I will plant in my bed within two weeks of opening day.

I will keep all refuse materials out of my bed and the area immediately adjacent.

If I must abandon my bed for any reason I will notify the garden Director/President.

I will maintain my bed and weed accordingly.

All plots will display a green “performance flag”. If my plot becomes unkempt, I understand that I will be given a yellow “notice flag” the first week and a red “notice flag” upon the beginning of the second week for non-compliance. Dismissal from the association will result if unresolved by the end of the second week. The Director shall determine the issuance of flags.

I will participate in the Fall clean-up of the garden.

I will plant taller crops where they will least likely shade neighboring beds (no corn allowed). I will not use trellises, stalks or any other method of vertical growing in the bed exclusive of tomato stakes less than 3.5’ high.

I will not use chemical fertilizers, pesticides or weed killers. (only organic gardening is allowed)

I acknowledge the importance of volunteering time towards collective community garden efforts.

I understand that not following the rules will result in my dismissal from the program.

I understand that neither the garden group nor the Town is responsible for my actions; as such I therefore agree to hold harmless the Town of Southington from any liability, loss, damage or claim that occurs in connection with use of the garden by me or any of my guests.

No parking will be allowed on the Academy Street Garden property. On-street parking is available along with weekend and evening use of the Municipal Lot.

9. Revision of these By-Laws: These by-laws may be amended by a simple majority vote of the membership.

10. An assessment for water usage over a certain amount to be determined by the Water Dept. may be applied equally to all participants. Fee to be paid to the Water Dept.

11. The hold harmless clause as described in the Southington Community Garden Rules shall apply to the use of the garden.