

Stratham Community Garden Committee

Charge

Adopted 4-21-2025

Purpose:

The Stratham Community Garden Committee is established to create and oversee the operation and maintenance of the Stratham Community Garden and to support a positive gardening experience for all participants. The Committee will strive to build community, promote opportunities for programming in connection to Town-departments and Town organizations, and provide members with space and knowledge to grow their own food and contribute healthy food for our community and local food pantries.

Responsibilities:

- Monitor and manage day-to-day operations of the community garden.
- Enforce garden rules and ensure compliance by all participants.
- Coordinate group work days among gardeners.
- Organize food pantry donations.
- Fundraising activities, as required.
- Promote responsible gardening practices and community involvement.
- Submit proposals for purchases and policy changes to the Select Board for approval.

Membership:

Unless re-authorized the Committee will sunset November 15, 2026.

Membership on the committee will be open to Stratham residents. The Committee shall consist of up to 7 members appointed by the Select Board. Length of terms for appointments shall be from appointment through to November 15, 2026 (sunset date).

Roles and Responsibilities Defined:

This Committee is appointed as a volunteer Committee to oversee a Town program on Town property. It is understood that responsibility for the physical set-up, operation, maintenance,

oversight, and bedding down is the responsibility of the volunteers and not any Town department or staff member, unless addressed below or authorized specifically by the Town Administration, all responsibility for the garden activities will fall to the volunteers as organized by the Committee.

Here are examples of rights reserved by the Town and activities that are envisioned to be carried out by Town staff in coordination with the volunteers.

1. The Town reserves the right to revoke the garden activity at any time if there is a persistent failure to meet the standards in its Charge, the approved Policies of the Committee or other written agreement with the Town.
2. Final layout of the initial 2025 Garden will be approved by the Town Administrator.
3. All communication between designated leadership of the Committee shall be through the Town Administrator or his designee. Beginning in the 2025 season, the Town Administrator's designee shall be Tim Stevens, DPW Director.
4. Assistance during the year, in coordination with DPW, it is anticipated the DPW will assist with:
 - a. Placing water totes in an agreed upon location
 - b. Assist in the initial layout of the garden
 - c. Assist volunteers in laying out fencing and paths
 - d. Mow the edges of the garden that encompass the 1 acre site, that does not include the garden.
 - e. Twice annually be available to stage wood chips in an agreed upon location.
 - f. Generally trouble shoot issues as they arise as the landowner.
 - g. Be available to answer questions and serve as a resource in the role of landowner.

DPW shall not be relied on or requested to perform tasks not contemplated above, unless approved otherwise by the Town Administrator.