



Grow Food Amherst Supports Article 11

The following is taken from the minutes of the September 9, 2013 meeting of the Steering Committee of Grow Food Amherst;

Rebecca Fricke moved and Aaron Drysdale seconded a motion that Grow Food Amherst take responsibility for providing leadership for a public brainstorming process to engage the Amherst community in creating a public vision for the community garden and living classroom aspects of the project. Approved unanimously (12-0-0).

Many of the 425 members of Grow Food Amherst attended a public conversation at Town Hall held on October 29 to discuss options for use of parcel in East Amherst. Among the many ideas proposed for the property by those in attendance were the following (which received the most support in an informal ballot):

1. Collectively managed public food gardens
2. Permaculture education plots
3. Wild edible plants trail
4. Young farmer practice plots
5. Public workshops on growing food

These suggestions are consistent with the mission of Grow Food Amherst which is:

...to create a resilient community by actively engaging residents to support creative endeavors for growing healthy and affordable food locally, including public places and neighborhoods, and by encouraging more sustainable agriculture and permaculture projects in the Amherst, MA area.

Grow Food Amherst is committed to work to make these suggestions a reality and encourages Town Meeting to vote in favor of Article 11.

Submitted by John M. Gerber on behalf of the Steering Committee of Grow Food Amherst. For information on GFA, see: <http://www.growfoodamherst.org>.