



2023 Board of Directors

proposed slate for Annual Meeting of the
General Membership February 1, 2023

Chair	Judy Fallows	Vice Chair	
Secretary	Darya Mattes* <small>(last year)</small>	Treasurer	Marilyn Salvas*
	Corey Barr		Carson Burrington* <small>(last year)</small>
	Melinda Dennis*		Linda Relson*
	Angela Robinson		Doug Vannah* <small>(last year)</small>

*returning for second year of 2 year term, all others are being elected to a new 2 year term

Board Officers:



Judy Fallows, Chair - I've lived in Watertown since 1984. My current job is Garden Coordinator for the Watertown Public Schools, a position that I've held since its creation in 2015. I was a member of the First Leadership Team meeting for Organizing Community Gardens in Watertown that convened at Church of the Good Shepherd in 2010; that group eventually turned into WCG and I was a founding board member. I also maintain an extensive backyard garden where I grow more varieties of vegetables, fruits and berries than you might think feasible

in a rather densely populated suburban neighborhood.

????, Vice-Chair



Darya Mattes, Secretary - I've lived in Watertown for seven years and was a gardener at Grove Street for five, where I also served on the garden committee. I really value how community gardens bring neighbors together, and miss our wonderful community at Grove Street, but I'm excited to help WCG move into its next phase, with new garden spaces and new ways of gardening together. When not gardening, I work as a climate resilience planner with the cities of Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop.



Marilyn McCarthy Salvas, Treasurer - I grew up in Watertown and graduated from Watertown high school. Studied at U Mass Boston and Lowell. I pursued a career in data processing that took me from here to California and back. I worked for Watertown Public Schools for thirteen years. I am currently retired. I have interests in nature photography and vegetable gardening. I would like to see more environmentally friendly open spaces in the town. Growing up in Watertown we always had a vegetable garden. I take great pleasure in growing food, cooking it

and feeding it to the people in my life.

Returning Board members:



Carson Burrington – I am a Watertown resident and New Englander now for 11 years. I’m originally from Montana and appreciate the outdoors, the four seasons, and community engagement. I am active in some other nonprofit efforts including Riverside Boat Club and the Metro North Regional Employment Board and a local veteran hiring organization. I am a plant lover and gardener, and admirer of all things local as well. My day job is in human resources at a local biotech company based in Cambridge. I feel grateful to have the opportunity to be part of an organization like WCG that provides options for gardening and community connection.



Melinda Dennis – A native of California, I’ve lived in Watertown for over 7 years and enjoy supporting local groups working to green our city. I volunteer with the Watertown Farmer’s Market, the garden committee at the UU First Parish in Watertown, and the Friends of Bees, entering the Garden of Life tour this past fall as a beginner. I love permaculture and organic gardening practices (particularly vegetables since my career is in nutrition) and am currently converting my wild, invasively over-run home plot into a pollinator haven garden. I’m looking forward to working together with WCG’s outreach committee and the community to create more unique green space that will support native pollinators, feed people, and improve our city’s health.



Linda Relson – I am enthusiastic about gardening with native plants to support pollinators and birds, and promote biodiversity. I have lived in Watertown since 2019 and work as a mechanical engineer in Waltham. I became involved in WCG in the spring of 2021, helping with a few pollinator plots at the community gardens. Since then, I have helped with the installation and maintenance of three public pollinator gardens in Watertown, and look forward to future projects. With the outreach committee I hope to teach our community about native plants and life-friendly gardening practices.

Doug Vannah – I became involved with organic community gardening about 9 years ago and quickly went from a non-gardener to someone who can’t wait for the season to begin. After moving to Watertown 5.5 years ago, I first volunteered with WCG and helped in building out the new garden at Arsenal and was then able to join WCG with a plot and also join its Board. I am also on the Board of my condo association.

New Board members in 2023:



Corey Barr - Originally from New Hampshire, I’ve lived in Watertown for over 10 years, and I have been involved with Watertown Community Gardens since 2022. My professional work is in human rights education, particularly instructional and curriculum design for adult learners. From

2017 to 2020, I took a break from this work and did about three years of landscaping and fine gardening. While I've always loved plants and considered myself a gardener on some level, my work in those years really deepened my love for native plants, pollinator-friendly plants, and gardening as a whole. I have limited space of my own, with just a container garden on my deck, so I was excited to find WCG and join like-minded people in the creation, maintenance and improvement of our community's garden spaces.



Angela Robinson - I'm a Seattle native and resident of Watertown for nearly 15 years, living with my spouse and two daughters next door to Moxley Park (come say hi while you check out the construction!). In my work life I'm a learning specialist and curriculum developer, formerly an elementary educator. A longtime lover of gardening with little available space and lead in the soil, I was so pleased to land a plot at Union Market in 2021 and became a garden leader in 2022. I love building community, being outdoors, and contributing to social justice efforts in Watertown (primarily as a member of the Unity Breakfast Planning Team). I'm excited to continue to grow our community gardens as a source of food, health, joy, and environmental stewardship.