

**From:** [Cooper Hays](#)  
**To:** [Steve Burnham](#)  
**Subject:** [External Email] Letter in support of Community Garden  
**Date:** Monday, June 13, 2022 2:32:36 PM

---

[ATTENTION: This Email was received from outside the Municipality]

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of the formation of a nonprofit and permanent location at Jewel Gardens for Skagway's Community Garden.

I am also writing to draw attention to the Planning and Zoning Committee meeting that occurred on June 11th 2020. The recording of this meeting is available and I urge community members to listen to it in its entirety before casting any judgement or making comments about the future of the community garden.

It is clear that the hardworking volunteers that created this incredible resource have been under attack for several years and were unfairly blindsided by a list of accusatory and ill informed demands in a public meeting. An unnecessary and bizarre discussion about the possibility of the untimely demise/violent death of the volunteers was brought forth in this meeting.

It deserves a fresh listen before continuing discourse on who is fit to run our Community Garden and how.

Food scarcity is a major concern at this time nationwide and especially so in our rural area with extreme weather conditions.

Having a community garden run by a board of citizens with deep experience in gardening is a beautiful way for us to address food security and to ensure that Skagway has nutritious food even when we have major disruptions in our supply chains from outside.

Having this board headed by the woman who has poured the most into this community garden already makes the most sense.

With nothing but her hands and a heart full of volunteer service, she took up a shovel in 2008. There were only 4 beds at that time. Today she manages 26.

Laura Mabee has decades of experience and despite the petty attacks from ill informed citizens, she has operated with grace to great success.

Ms. Mabee has direct experience feeding thousands of community members in Lane County Oregon, working in a garden similar to the one being proposed locally.

With the blessing of many prominent Skagway citizens both alive and deceased, Ms Mabee will be bringing something literally lifesaving to our valley and to our community. With the help of some of these citizens on the non profit board she is creating, she is setting us all up for success.

I urge Skagway to support Ms. Mabee's efforts and I am grateful that the Municipality is forward thinking in this time of food insecurity in our region and nation.

Sincerely,  
Cooper Lynn Hays  
Skagway Resident