



TOWN of THOMPSON

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Thompson Garden By The River Meeting Agenda

Thursday, October 1, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Zoom recording:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/dSMV3DJ0rmsA-1dFuefWCWenvr2Gaytjf9LhrzjHWCIGWMC83mejNRm9ixaJ-tOW.VH4C2BtBr18RjJba>

Passcode: YH8q2e+.

Attending: A. Gniadek – Chair, A. Miller, T. Penn-Gesek

1. Garden Update and Clean Up Date discussion

The garden is nearly spent for the season. M. Kettle went during the week and pulled most of the rest of the plants, leaving the flowers and herbs. Roughly 2 grocery bags full of peppers remained to harvest, which she delivered to TEEG for their food distribution this week. There is probably no need for an organized cleanup day, the site is still very tidy.

The composter finally arrived from Lowes. T. Penn will take it over to the site and transfer the pile of spent plant material & some of the leftover loam to get it started. She will also open the rain barrels to let them drain for the season. The last of the TLGV grant funds were expended this week & the closing report sent in. Playground equipment and sign have all been received and are in storage with DPW. DPW has promised to install all of the materials together at the conclusion of paving season.

TEEG views the partnership as having been very fruitful, especially during such an unusual year. Staff from TEEG were among those who harvested produce for their food bank, and adults and youth from their clients spent time at the garden on their own, both to harvest and just to enjoy the site. TEEG is planning on including mention of the partnership between the 2 gardens in their annual report.

2. Garden Improvement Ideas for next year

The Recreation Dept. has indicated they will host registration for the garden for the spring season. Fees will be set at \$25 for a single bed, \$45 for a double bed. \$5 from each online registration will go to Rec to offset credit card handling fees. The volunteer committee will start meeting again in January unless something pressing arises. T. Penn will continue to pursue grants to fund improvements to the garden, as well as seeking funding for the larger connected projects or rehabbing the house, developing the small business center & the food forest park. If circumstances are more normalized, planning for community events around the garden can be done more seriously.

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in 2021. If garden plots are not rented to capacity, then Recreation, TEEG, the Girl Scouts and the Public Schools will be solicited for interest in maintaining plots for their organizations.

Access to water is the most pressing issue for the garden. If the building rehab is sufficiently advanced, having water turned back on at the house & connected via drip irrigation on a timer is something to explore. The rain garden was not installed in 2020 as hoped, but that also cannot logically move forward until the exterior rehab is complete.

Once the garden takes on a life of its own with community use, T. Penn suggests that the Garden By the River volunteers can branch out to take on other community beautification projects (e.g. installing gardens on the anticipated bump out of the Blain Road Rte 12 intersection), and working to push the 65 Main Street master plan forward.

3. Meeting wrap up/Questions & Comments

None additional.