



TOWN OF THOMPSON

Garden By the River
In Memory of Harriet A. Tourtellotte
A Subcommittee of the
Economic Development Commission

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February 25, 2021 Meeting Agenda

Meeting Recording:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/Zpb96H2JFDYzOEFE-XfvyPmCWff2KyV3EjxYRBfRAzG66vKBYr3xEp-JqipYaM9a.vijnUwdKxk3C4W0P>

Access Passcode: 2fq*o8F+

Attending: A. Gniadek, Chair; J. Bolte, A. Miller, J. Rondeau, T. Penn-Gesek

1. Review Grant award (Youth Garden Grant)
 - TEEG has started to receive items from the \$500 equipment and supplies package
 - The \$250 check has not yet arrived
 - Discussion on how to best use the cash funds: the Girl Scouts had planned on offering a pollinator garden activity for the garden opening in 2020 that was scratched because of the first COVID surge. As part of the youth gardening program, the Scouts will offer that as a peer-to-peer activity, and funds can be used to purchase supplies for that. Other possible uses for the funds: A lockable bin for the shared youth garden tools, live pollinator plants (native perennials, herbs, native edibles). TEEG is the fiscal agent for the grant and will handle the reimbursement of funds spent by the Scouts toward the garden. Jess will find example images & materials lists of what the Scouts will be making for the activity to forward to TEEG.
 - Further discussion as to the nature of the specific youth programming for the garden: are the three groups operating separately, or together? Girl Scouts will not be meeting in person until April, which is when the garden is formally open. TEEG has very young playgroup kids who would be could candidates to join in the pollinator bomb activity. Kids in the mentorship program are still facing some transportation challenges because of COVID, but Anne expects they will be able to start transporting their mentees sometime in March.
 - Loose plans are formed to have a spring/summer event to show off the results of the pollinator garden once it is planted and growing well.
 - Judy asks if the pollinator plants that are native perennials/edibles can be transplanted into the edges of the adjoining woodlot, to start informally building out the idea of the public food forest proposed for the adjacent parcel. Tyra will do some research for suitable plants.
 - The Whole Foods/Whole Kids youth garden grant is open through 31 March. If time allows, Tyra will submit an application for additional funding...awards are made up to \$3000
2. Garden Sign Up Outreach
 - No sign-ups for the community garden aspect have yet been received. The garden opens for the season on 1 April
 - A change in promotional strategy is suggested: to hit the most likely users for the garden, direct door-knocking & flyering by the Girls Scouts to the Housing authority apartments, Carriage Square and Three Rows is recommended.
 - Committee members are asked to follow up after the meeting with an email regarding the strategic pieces they will be able to take on to reach these audiences.