



TOWN of THOMPSON

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

**Community Garden Planning Group
Thursday 27 February
Merrill Seney Community Room, Town Hall
6:00 P.M.**

Minutes

Attending: Alyssa Gniadek, Chair; Marcia Barron-Kettle; Jessica Bolte; Ryan Lajoie; Anne Miller, Jo-Ann Chenail (TEEG); Judy Rondeau (ECCD); Tyra Penn

1. Grants Update

- TLGV

Roughly \$2500 from EDC/Branding has been spent through October 2019. The remaining \$2500, which is the amount TLGV will match, will be spent on soils, compost, tools & park accessories (bike rack) between now and opening day for spring season. TLGV reimburses the funds after expenditure.

- ECAR – Realtor involvement

\$5000 total will be reimbursed. Funds were set aside by EDC already.

\$4500 will be spent on playground equipment, \$500 will be put aside to put toward a sign for the site(which must include ECAR as a funding sponsor in the design). R. Lajoie & T Penn will confer separately about specific ways for local ECAR members to participate.

- Hometown Bank/Partners for Places progress

Hometown Bank has gone silent. A new possible funding partner for the first stage needs to be found. Building rehab grants outside historic preservation are hard to find. Possibly seek partnership from private business for that phase.

- Verizon (TEEG)

- Miller describes what was awarded for their community garden program on Thatcher Street (processing table & scale). Cross-use may be possible once the CSA at 65 Main is fully established.

- GroMore Grassroots grant

Notification of award should be in early April (\$500 or \$1000). Grant was adapted from prior Kids Garden grant, which was not awarded. Grant would be to support a youth engagement program. A. Miller & T. Penn will discuss the specifics of such a program in a separate conversation. J. Bolte and M. Joyce will also be part of programming for youth engagement (Girl Scouts & tech. program kids, respectively)

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2. Thompson Garden by the River Family Garden Day 2020
 - Select official date and time for Family Garden Day
Date is set for Saturday 2 May, afternoon (noon-4 p.m.?)
 - Who can volunteer and participate or stop by to visit
To be discussed at the next meeting in greater depth
 - Review ideas for Plant Sale, Pot/container Give & Take, Recycling, Raffle, Birdhouse building, plant identifiers/tags, money handling for selling plants
J. Bolte and her Girl Scouts will make pollinator seed bombs & pollinator habitats to be available that day. J. Rondeau will start marigold seeds to share. A yoga instructor was confirmed during the meeting, to offer a free class on site. Some kind of food needs to be arranged. Possible pig roast (T. Penn and husband would have to arrange this piece, if it is feasible).
 - Confirm Clean Up Day participation (taking place during Thompson Clean Up Day). Potential coordination with Thompson Together
April cleanup planning meeting scheduled for Thursday 5 March. Details will be shared following that.
 - Brainstorm any other ideas
3. Youth Engagement Program
 - Elaborate on program proposed in Kids Garden Grant w. TEEG
See notes above – separate conversation needs to be scheduled for A. Miller & T. Penn
 - Thompson Girl Scouts participation, confirm their participation for clean up day and Family Garden Day
See notes above under agenda item #2
 - ECCD workshop plans?
Nothing firm scheduled at this time
 - Killingly Vo-Ag
Initial contact between Bethany Knowlton at Vo-Ag & T. Penn has not had specific follow up yet.
 - Any schools interested in helping to grow seeds? Who can we contact?
(Following this meeting, J. Bolte put T. Penn in touch with two teachers from the public schools. A plan for seed starting & planting at the garden by the students is being worked out)
4. Practical Considerations
 - When to order soil & compost? Let's confirm this if we have not already
Plan is to order by early April. A local supplier in Danielson was identified.
 - Further solicitation of gardeners? Cleanup day recruitment?
(Following this meeting, the Recreation Director offered to host a registration form on the Rec website. Social Media solicitation is planned starting in April as well)
 - "Day of Service" for realtors? Confirm with association for help with fall clean up?
Exact nature of participation TBD

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- Playground equipment-let's make official selections
After some product catalogs were passed around, it was agreed to order a "Cosmic Warp" climber and a bike rack via Jon Jalbert/UltiPlay Parks. As soon as T. Penn receives an invoice, the order will be placed
- Gathering supplies for Family Garden Day
Seeds donated by Select Seeds remain from October 2019 events. Those can be used by student gardeners ahead of 2 May event. T. Penn has a number of 4" terra cotta pots (50ish?). Other supplies are to be decided once a firmer plan for the opening day is established.

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