

Sheffield Agricultural Commission
September 10, 2020 – APPROVED

Present: Bob Kilmer, Jim Kelly, Jill Graham (member of public), Amelia Conklin

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm.

Food Security Infrastructure Grant:

Rev. Jill Graham presented on the Food Security Infrastructure Grant opportunity. The grant program opened in June and the response deadline is 9/15 at 4 pm. It is a federal grant co-sponsored by Department of Energy and Environmental Affairs, the Department of Transportation Assistance, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Public Health that comprises \$36 million in federal funding. The opportunity was brought up during a weekly meeting of local organizations that have been addressing food insecurity in our community during the pandemic. The project coincides with a longtime idea/vision for the church. Meals have been difficult to access for seniors and low-income folks during the pandemic – they were found via restaurants but that was expensive – so this would have a great benefit to the community. The project is a church kitchen renovation, turning the existing kitchen into a commercially certified kitchen. This would allow the food that comes to the Sheffield Food Program to be processed for meals or added-value foods. The kitchen could be used for teaching or other opportunities. It would be especially helpful for preserving summer vegetables for winter in the form of pickles, sauerkraut, etc. The church would further partner with other agencies that are serving the community needs (the farmers market, Greenagers, People's Pantry, Christ Trinity, Gideon's Garden, Sheffield Food Program, etc.) for both receiving food donations as well as distributing meals. Would the Sheffield Agricultural Commission be willing to be a partner and write a letter of support? The title of the project is the Community Outreach Opportunities Kitchen, or C.O.O.K.. Jim K. made a motion that we make a letter of support and that Amelia C. write it. Bob seconded it. The motion passed unanimously with Jim K. abstaining due to his position at the church. Amelia C. will write the letter and Kathy O. will edit it and they will submit it by the end of day on Sunday, September 13. Kathy O. will put it on Sheffield Ag Com letterhead.

Pollinator Friendly Resolution:

Kathy O. will write a cover letter to represent the new draft. Amelia C. will write an explanatory piece.

Next meeting:

First Wednesdays at 7 pm – 10/14 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Amelia Conklin