



To: President and Members of Town Council

From: Dustin Anderson, Town Manager
Tom Vander Woude, Planning Director

Date: January 14, 2021

Re: America In Bloom / CN “EcoConnexions From the Ground Up” grant agreement

The purpose of this memo is to request authorization from the Town Council to enter into an agreement with America In Bloom to receive a \$25,000 grant. The grant is to fund the installation of landscaping along the Pennsy Greenway trail between Centennial Village and the CN railroad tracks.

Background

In 2020, the Town partnered with Centennial Village LLC to submit an application to the “EcoConnexions From the Ground Up” grant program. This program is funded by the CN Railroad and administered by the nonprofit America In Bloom organization; it has the goal of supporting collaborative community greening projects that enhance landscapes in communities neighboring CN rail lines. The Town’s application proposed a series of landscaped areas along the Pennsy Greenway trail between Centennial Village and the CN railroad tracks that would enhance the trail corridor and screen the railroad tracks from Centennial Village. The application materials are attached to this memo for reference.

In December, the Town’s proposal was selected by AIB/CN. The total cost of the project is \$50,000. AIB/CN is providing the maximum \$25,000 in grant funding and requires a 50% match. Centennial Village LLC has agreed to provide half of the match. The Town’s contribution will be \$12,500.

The project is to be completed in 2021.

Recommendation:

By motion and voice vote, authorize the Town Manager to execute an agreement with America In Bloom to receive a \$25,000 CN “EcoConnexions From the Ground Up” grant.

Attachments:

1. CN EcoConnexions From the Ground Up Grant Agreement
2. CN/AIB Grant Proposal Submission
3. Town of Munster CN America In Bloom Grant Application Maps of project area