

Report

TOWN OF FORT FRANCES
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DIVISION
Municipal Planner Report #MP2015-13

To: Mayor and Council
From: Faye Flatt, Municipal Planner
Date: September 9, 2015
Subject: **Community Garden – Expansion**

In 2010 a local group of citizens from the community in cooperation with the Northwestern Health Unit, approached the Town with a request to construct and operate a Community Garden on town owned property fronting Lillie Avenue at Elizabeth Street West. The request was supported and the Town facilitated the initiative by rezoning the property and permitting the area to be fenced. The initial area was north of the unopened road allowance of Elizabeth Street West and about two years later a second area was laid out south of the road allowance and permission given to place small sheds on the property.

At it's meeting held September 8th the Planning and Development Executive Committee received a request from the Community Garden group, as a non-agenda item, to expand and fence the south area to match the size of the north area (approximately 250' x 90') to accommodate additional raised beds and to permit another small shed (10' x 8'). For reference a map of the area is attached with the proposed expansion area highlighted yellow. A copy of the email request is also attached.

The Committee recognizes that with the Health Unit taking the lead role in terms of administration to ensure everyone who participates signs an Indemnification and that although there have been property standards issues over the first few years, it has been cleaned up considerably. Issues such as zoning and fencing, etc. were discussed. The Committee was advised that the zoning issues had been taken care of with the enactment of Zoning By-Law #3/14 when *Community Gardens* were listed as permitted in all residential zones. Other issues discussed but of no concern are the fencing, which had been researched previously, and the shed, which is not of a size requiring a building permit.

The Planning and Development Executive Committee views this initiative as being beneficial to the community and supports the Community Garden Group and the expansion and in that respect recommends the request as set out in email dated September 4, 2015 from Elaine Fischer, Health Promoter with Northwestern Health Unit be approved.

Respectfully submitted,



F. Flatt, AMCT, ACST, CPT
Municipal Planner
Att'd

COUNCIL APPROVAL OF THIS REPORT WILL approve the request from the Northwestern Health Unit and the Community Garden group to expand and fence the south garden area to match the north one including the placement of additional raised garden beds and a small shed.

