

Appendix Ai

COTTAM UNITED CHURCH



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May 14, 2019

Greetings Counsellors:

Cottam United Church is submitting an application for a grant under the Downtown Cottam Community Improvement Plan.

We have a dream that we would like to share with you. Beside our church is a lot that we own. It has sat vacant for many years but we would like to change that.

Our dream is to use that land to create a prayer garden that will be open to all residents and visitors in our community. It will be a place where people will be invited to sit on the benches, enjoy the shade on a sunny day, pause for a rest on their walks around town, or just find a quiet place where they can find peace. The heart of the prayer garden will be a water feature at the end of a winding path.

We believe that this prayer garden could be a show piece in the centre of our community and could be a reason for people to come to Cottam and support our downtown businesses. You will find a copy of the landscape design attached to the application. It was created for us by Bezaire Landscape Architects in Windsor. You also will note that one of the features of the prayer garden is a 550 sq ft entertainment pad beside the church building that could be used for outdoor concerts, weddings, etc. This potentially could be a venue that could be utilized for the Kingsville Folk Festival or other musical events when completed.

The total cost of the project is expected to be \$30,000. A copy of the budget for the project is enclosed. We have already secured \$20,000 in funding but require \$10,000 more to complete the project in its entirety. We are currently reaching out to local businesses, service clubs and other community partners with the hope of raising half of the necessary funds. We are hoping that the remaining \$5,000 could come through the CIP grants from the Town of Kingsville.

We realize that generally, the maximum CIP grant is \$2,500. This project, however, is scheduled to be completed in two phases. Phase one will cost \$20,000 and be completed in the fall of 2019. Phase two will cost an additional \$10,000 and be completed in the spring of 2020 when we will have an event to officially open the prayer

garden to the community. Because the project has two phases we were hoping to apply for CIP grants in both 2019 and 2020. We have looked through the Cottam Community Improvement Plan and found nothing that would prevent us from doing this. We have also enclosed a copy of the budget for each of the two phases.

We have already had a great deal of interest in the prayer garden as a community project. A number of businesses and individuals have volunteered to donate their expertise and equipment. We have consulted with ERCA which has provided a great deal of guidance. The Guides and Scouts also have expressed an interest in helping with the planting.

It is our hope to make the planting of the garden a community event so that our neighbours may have a sense of ownership in the garden whether or not they attend our church.

If you have any questions, please contact the church office at your convenience.

Yours faithfully,

Ashley Osborne

Ashley Osborne,
Committee Secretary