To: CCE MGV

RE: Grow With CCE fundraising campaign update & new garden project

Date: March 9, 2022

As of March 7, 2022, the *Grow With CCE Campaign* has raised **$195,282** (towards our $200k goal) from cash, pledged and in-kind donations. This represents 126 donations, including individuals, businesses, local organizations and private foundations. Many donors have contributed multiple times. We also have a verbal commitment from a local foundation to underwrite the costs of two lamp-posts for the garden (approx. $10k).

Although our engineer unexpectedly walked off the project, we believe this may be a blessing in disguise. CCE staff & the MGV project committee have reached out to our landscaper, Kevin Green, who has assured us he and his staff can step in to make the necessary site plan updates, coordinate w/ contractors, file necessary revised permits, and oversee the project.

In the meanwhile, the MGV garden project committee & CCE ag/horticulture educator, Jessica Holmes, are working with students from the Cooperstown Graduate Program’s Science Museum Studies track, to research & develop educational signage for the new gardens. Once messaging is determined, a graphics designer (who works w/ the students on similar public site projects), will recommend designs, materials & a fabricator. The landscaping team will install the finished signs. The signage design & fabrication is underwritten by the funds received from the Laura Jane Musser Foundation. The graduate students’ work will fulfill their course requirements; hence, there will be no cost to CCE related to research. However, the dean of CGP has suggested CCE consider making a donation to the program.

Respectfully submitted by Pati Drumm Grady, Grow With CCE co-chair