

CDBG Advisory Committee  
Meeting  
November 17, 2009

Present:

Members: James Allen, Herbert Chaffee, Bruce Clarke, Arthur Jay, Donna Neylon, and Bill Scanlan, Grant Writer/Administrator. Excused: Lucinda Thompson

Chairman Jim Allen called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Minutes: Bruce Clarke moved to approve the minutes of November 3, 2009; Arthur Jay seconded; so voted.

**NEW CDBG PROJECT APPLICATION:**

Housing Authority: Bill announced that Housing Authorities are now eligible to receive CDBG funds.

CDS:

Members had reviewed the CDS (Community Development Strategy) at their last meeting and at home so this review went along fairly quickly. Various changes were suggested and Bill Scanlan will change the CDS accordingly. Some of those changes were:

Add:

- a) That feasibility studies were done and/or nearly completed for the Police Station and for the Town Hall Barrier Removal Committee.
- b) Need storm windows for second floor; windows being repaired/rebuilt by the Custodian;

Remove the reference to Senior Group meeting at Wagon Wheel and combine:

“develop a youth center and/or multi-purpose community center...” (#20 to Community Development Priorities) to “Improve recreational facilities to meet local needs...” (#17 in the same listing)

Bruce moved and Art seconded to submit the CDS, as revised at this meeting, to the Selectmen for the Public Hearing tonight; so voted.

Housing Project Discussion:

Jim said that he had tried several times at different times of the day and had not been able to reach the Keaton's again. The Board discussed this project again and determined that if the property owner is not willing to sell and the Town has to get involved in legal fees, the project may be too expensive for the \$125,000 allocated.

Per motion by Bruce Clark, seconded by Art Jay, the Board agreed to contact the local Housing Authority to see if they would be interested in having their 2-unit property on Hayden Avenue included in this grant application; replace the Keaton property in the

grant application with the Housing Authority property; agreed to ask the Selectmen for funding of about \$400 from the Program Income Account for a property evaluation by PVPC; and ask the Selectmen for their approval of the change to the grant application; so voted. Once approval is received, Bill will contact PVPC to cancel the request to evaluate the 12 Main Street property and instead to evaluate the Hayden Avenue property.

Preliminary Plans: We need funding for preliminary plans from the engineer.

Survey: Art reported that he had visited all of the homes on Main Street with the survey and only had two that were not home. Of the surveys received all qualified except for two.

**CDBG-R PROJECT:**

Jim read aloud a letter received from the newly formed Common/Mall Committee that did not recommend the removal of trees and elimination of the greenway on Common Street. After some discussion, it was agreed that there was a misunderstanding. Jim will suggest to the Selectmen that they call a joint meeting with the Common/Mall Committee, themselves and at least Bruce and Herb from this committee to review the suggested changes to this project area. This must be accomplished fairly quickly.

Herb asked for funding to test three trees on Common Street and two on Lincoln Street. He thinks that they may be able to be saved. Bruce moved and Herb seconded to request from the Selectmen funding not to exceed \$600 from the Program Income Account to hire the arborist to test these trees.

**OTHER:**

Bruce asked the Board to consider for a future project purchasing land for a 40B or Senior Housing project. He suggested the Lakeside Campground property citing that the abutting road, Pine Lane, is only 14 to 16 feet wide and has no exit which could be corrected with egress through the "campgrounds". CDBG funds may be used for land purchase and the project can be done in phases.

At 10:36 pm, Bruce Clarke moved to adjourn the meeting; Art Jay seconded; so voted.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna L. Neylon, Secretary