

CDBG Advisory Committee
Minutes of December 29, 2009

Present:

Members: Jim Allen, Herb Chaffee, Bruce Clarke, Lucinda Thompson, and Donna Neylon

Excused: Arthur Jay

Jim Allen called the meeting to order at 9:00 am in the Selectmen's office of the Town Hall. The purpose of the meeting was to work on the FY 2010 grant application:

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

No minutes to approve.

2010 GRANT APPLICATION:

Bill Scanlan reported that the committee's plans to include barrier removal to Central Street would not be accepted so the committee had to come up with another project or projects for the grant application. Already included in the grant is the infrastructure work to Draper Street from the intersection with High Street to Route 9 and the rehabilitation of the two units to the Housing Authority's property on Hayden Avenue. It is estimated that these two projects will cost about \$300,000.

Ideas submitted:

- 1) Sidewalks along route 9 – this is a state-owned highway therefore not eligible.
- 2) Take over the Finney property on Route 9 (former propane business) as a Brownfield project – they may be applying on their own for this project through Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC).
- 3) Willow Rest Area; purchase this property for a possible cemetery expansion. This property is state-owned.
- 4) Rehabilitate the property at 12 Main Street, as discussed at earlier CDBG Advisory Committee meetings. This project has a maximum limit of \$125,000 that can be spent from this grant and the Town has no matching funds. There are septic problems and needs a survey. It was determined that this project would not be practical for the 2010 grant application.
- 5) Help with a septic system for Wagon Wheel Park on Rice Corner Road. The committee agreed this would certainly be a worthy project but preliminary engineering plans, etc. are needed so the project could not be ready in time. We agreed to ask Bill Scanlan about this as a future project or if there were other locations of a grant(s) that could help. Donna will contact Joe Gadbois, president of Wagon Wheel, to see what the status of their project is and if we can help in any way.

- 6) Infrastructure to Hyde Street – water lines, drainage, sidewalk. This is a short street (about 400 feet) and members thought the area would fit the low-to-moderate income criteria.
- 7) Infrastructure to part of Hayden Avenue – to include the Housing Authority property (drainage, sidewalks)
- 8) An approximately 400' Infrastructure area to East Main Street, the area by Blanchard Means Foundation. The plan would be to straighten this section, put in a concrete sidewalk, curbing (no drainage, no water). But, since this is a historical road, it was thought there would be too much controversy against the project. Jim Allen called Ron Couture, former Chairman of the Historical Commission, and reported no interest in the project at this time.
- 9) Infrastructure upgrades to Pine Lane. It was agreed that this is a very big project and a complete survey would need to be done first. This will be a future project.
- 10) Conversion of the “campground” on Hobbs Avenue to a Chapter 40B development.
- 11) Conversion of the “Corderre field” on Quaboag Street to Chapter 40B housing as this would be a good area for a septic system.
- 12) Mill Street – wouldn't qualify so are waiting for possible “hazardous mitigation grant” funding.
- 13) Infrastructure to Devil's Elbow Road – needs to be done but wouldn't qualify in the income criteria.
- 14) Housing rehabilitation to individual homes in town. The committee seemed to like this idea but questioned how to do this. How do you decide who is “most deserving”? They agreed they couldn't get this project ready for the application date anyway.

Bruce Clarke moved and Herb Chaffee seconded that the Committee proceed with the infrastructure projects to Hyde Street and Hayden Avenue if the results of the income survey were acceptable; so voted.

The committee will ask Bill Scanlan if there is anywhere they could get grant funding for a right-of-way survey for the entire town.

The committee worked on and agreed upon the wording for the legal advertisement for the January 26, 2010 Public Hearing.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 10:22 am following the appropriate motion by Bruce Clarke and seconded by Herb Chaffee; so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna L. Neylon, Secretary