

CDBG ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 2011

Present: James Allen, Herb Chaffee, Bruce Clarke, Donna Neylon, Arthur Jay,  
William Scanlan

Excused: Lucinda Thompson

Mr. Allen called the meeting to order at about 9:05 am in the kitchen of the Town Hall.

Asphalt to Granite Curbing Change Order:

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the most recent e-mail from Candace Tempesta, Construction Specialist, Office of the Chief Counsel, Office of Community Development (OCD), which explained that the change order that the Town issued for additional granite curbing on Lincoln Street was "one of preference not of necessity" and that DHCD's position remains the same.

After a review of the e-mails, the committee still agreed that they felt they had not done wrong and they had not expanded the project beyond the original scope. It seems to be a matter of their opinion versus ours as to what is legitimate and what isn't and they did not cite a chapter/verse as to our "violation".

Bill Scanlan believes the Town's exposure is about \$35,000 for the granite curbing but may include an extra \$15,000 for "extra" asphalt.

Although there is no fixed format for appeal the committee agreed that the Town should appeal through a face-to-face meeting.

Donna Neylon moved and Herb Chaffee seconded that the committee recommend to the Board of Selectmen that they send a letter to the Director of Massachusetts DHCD, drafted by Bill Scanlan and reviewed by Town Counsel. Said letter would be from the Board of Selectmen and the CDBG AC and would request a meeting with the Director to ask for reconsideration of their decision not to pay for the use of granite curbing and to include all of our supporting information and reasoning for the change; so voted.

It is hoped that the letter alone, with all of the documentation, would result in an overturn of OCD's current opinion but, should the letter result in an actual meeting, the Committee would send its own representatives and would like at least one Selectman present along with Town Counsel, Senator Brewer and Representative Gobi.

*Other – Ideas for December 2011 grant applications:*

*Nanatomqua Mobile Home Park:*

Bill Scanlan mentioned that he had been approached by Judy Hitchcock of Nanatomqua for a meeting later this week relative to the possibility of the Town filing for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to help Nanatomqua with their septic problem. The Administrative Assistant had suggested that she contact him before Nanatomqua comes before the Selectmen with any request. Bill asked if the committee had any objection to him meeting with Ms. Hitchcock and the committee unanimously agreed that his meeting could be a time saver for all sides and would be helpful.

*To extend water lines as far as Wagon Wheel:*

Bill asked if this would be something the Water Department might be interested in and Bruce responded that they would not; that it should be a Town project should the Selectmen decide to proceed with it.

*Town Hall (ADA accessibility, etc.):*

The rules haven't changes – we will still need a 100% complete design plan in order to apply for a CDBG grant for ADA accessibility. If this project were to be included in the application due to be filed in December, the money for the design plans must be included in the FY 2012 Budget that will go before the voters in May or June of this year.

Bill will see if the man that gave the housing rehabilitation estimate for the Housing Authority property would do the same for the Town Hall and what he would charge. This could come from the Program Income Account.

The committee discussed doing about \$700,000 to the building each year (if the grant could be acquired) as that is about the maximum that can be done without going over “the threshold” and triggering sprinklers, etc.

Herb moved and Bruce seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:54 am; so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna L. Neylon, Secretary/Member

*approved 8/23/2011*