

Plainfield Flood Recovery Grants Work Group Meeting

Tuesday, January 28, 2025 @ 10 a.m.

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Attending:

Karen Hatcher (KH)

Michael Zahner (MZ)

Gary Smith (GS)

Josh Pitts (JP)

Karl Bissex (KB)

Michael Billingsley (MB)

Denise Wheeler (DW) – via Zoom

Arion Thiboumery (AT) – via Zoom

Bram Towbin (BT) – not in attendance

Carter Ivey (VEM Recovery Team) via Zoom

Sheila McGraw & Lauren (TIG @ 11 am) - via Zoom

Celina Barton (Goddard) (CB) - not in attendance

Melissa Bounty (Exec. Dir.) CVEDC – viz Zoom

Pat Moulton – via Zoom

Agenda: 10-11AM

10-11:30AM

- [CDBG-DR funding](#)- Melissa Bounty (Exec. Dir.) CVEDC and Pat Moulton joining to discuss application process/options

Community Block grants – funds created as a result of Hurricane Irene – flexible with quick timeline – new federal detailed guidance – lift up marginalized populations – low to moderate income - \$67M drawn down of

that \$55M going to Lamoille and Wash. Co. – Melissa putting together a list of top 5 projects (including Barre, Mont. & Plnfl.) to present to Ann Kurr, Secretary of the Agency of Commerce and Community Development,

KH – Plnfl. Has a need to fund the village expansion project. Can CDGB fund the project so the town doesn't have to borrow money which might sink the project?

Pat – top priority housing – land purchase price part of the project \$2.5M total project costs can be included.

KH – Can a long term professional manager be funded through CDBG – Melissa - yes

Pat – yes, could get the position wrapped in for 3 years – Goddard could be another element of the project – priority around housing and infrastructure

KH- Can CDBG fund matches for federal grants?

MB- Yes. (The group celebrated this news!)

MB – another piece of a planned community is a Community Center Bldg.

Melissa – go w/ conservative numbers and then add other pieces and look at other funding sources – legislature

Pat – pedestrian travel around expansion land (park, benches, walkways, etc.) – add justification as to why things are needed -

Melissa – list to Ann by Friday – then 90 public comment period

Pat - States plan approved by HUD - decisions made by Vt. Community Development Board

Melissa – CDBG funds do not require a match

Pat – need to start working on an application now and can help Plnfl. – KH to take lead

GS – consider looping into the community development grant the wastewater plant access road

(Sheila, Pat & Melissa left meeting)

KH – schedule brainstorming session – what do we need, want, start thinking about things for Plnflld. revitalization project

- Municipal Planning Grant draft progress- Green Space plan- Michael Z.

KH – matching funds requirement postponed a decision by the SB last night – critical that the SB understand these will be big dollars – can't think about matching funds coming from operating budget need to look for other sources for matches – need add'l planning session to figure out funding for grant matches.

- Advanced Assistance Program Funding- Report on Meeting with Steve Libby of CVRPC- Great Brook Study- Michael Z, Karen

MZ – Stephanie Smith (VEM) she wants Plnflld. to be in the next round of available funds – Steve (CVRPC) and Geo. Springston will help write grant – complete study of Great Brook watershed \$150K (top to bottom) – **MZ will draft grant application.**

MB – Joe Flynn (Vtrans) agreed that they took too much debris out of Great Brook. He will continue to pursue a remedy with Vtrans.

KH – Bond Bank .5% interest and half of the loan to be repaid (one year renewable loan) – JP it is a low interest loan – money from FEMA can be used to pay back Bond Bank loan

JP – investigating uses of loan, ARPA, money allocated, etc. – come up w/ a plan for SB to get a big picture of costs.

- Update- Recovery Project Mgr. options – Karen

1) Can be included as part of revitalization CDBG grant (per Pat M.)

2) TIG could hire someone to do this work – could hire locally as an expanded consulting role thru TIG – would need to update TIG contract

3) CVRPC could create a new position to be funded by multiple towns

KH – 1) currently TIG has direct admin. costs reimbursement at 92.5% through FEMA

2) TIG project management can modify contract and FEMA submissions

- Update- Funding/Project Roundtable – Karen

Working with Sierra Davidson to set this up – lining up meeting dates and times.

11:30 Sheila, Lauren and Carter joining for FEMA PA discussion

AT (left meeting).

GS – meeting at 2 pm w/ Byron (FEMA) – DI is in portal w/ Byron's edits – what is process now? Who takes the lead on the fast approaching emergency protection deadline – time extension? Carter is working w/ Sierra (coordinator as State level) and taking lead on extension requests.

Lauren said DDD, EEI come from site inspection deadlines won't come until those are done. Doing Cat. A & B now. GS what does time extension get us? Carter will look into various extension timelines. GS site inspections damage inventory could be done via tabletop? Lauren can be completed through DI (DDD) – Yes, FEMA could do this as an option.

Carter – checked w/ Sierra who said there is no time extension concrete absolute process – Sheila usually asks for 12 months – waiting for Sierra to specifically state what the state wants.