

# Plainfield Flood Recovery Grants Work Group Meeting

Tuesday, February, 4 2025 @ 10 a.m.

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Attending:

Karen Hatcher (KH)

Michael Zahner (MZ) – not available

Gary Smith (GS)

Josh Pitts (JP) - not available

Karl Bissex (KB)

Michael Billingsley (MB) – not available

Denise Wheeler (DW) – via Zoom

Arion Thiboumery (AT) – via Zoom

Sheila McGraw (TIG) - via Zoom

Celina Barton (Goddard) (CB) – via Zoom

Melissa Bounty

Pat Moulton

## **Agenda: Brainstorm for Community Development Block Grant- DR**

Melissa Bounty – all sounds good for CDBG funding – good to have dollar figures – no immediate needs – still need to have a good list. Might be summer before funding is available. Village expansion and Goddard not a problem – on the right track for Wash. Co. funding.

Pat Moulton – get applications in by May hopefully funding will be determined this summer. Housing and infrastructure projects top priority.

KH – is there a pre application? Pat – probably no – although Ann Kurrl asked for an initial list that will hopefully shorten the time frame for funding. Encouraging Arion to look for CDBG funding – can bring in grant funding.

Melissa says Plnfl. is in good shape.

Pat – doesn't think there is a funding issue from Feds. What is priority and what can we get going asap. For example, engineering study from Army Corp of Engineers – technical assistance takes a while – identify top tier projects.

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KH - focus on brainstorming for the CDBG-DR grant.

List of potential major areas of funding:

- **Housing**

- Include Village Expansion \$2.5M (GS – include in FEMA the term “relocation of lost housing”)

Celina – Goddard Housing – beyond rental – potential senior housing – new housing – reuse barracks for 1 to 2 bedroom rentals – tiny houses on outlying land (condo or coop model) – multifamily timber frame housing – eco design program (teach job training adaptive reuse) – waiting for Mike Davidson to approve numbers (budgets) – creative community – working w/ Capstone on affordability -

KH how does Goddard (private property) get into CDBG funding?

Pat - not unusual for communities to partner w/ a developer (ie., low cost loan) – must follow same CDBG guidelines – each applicant must prove low to moderate income – preference to flood survivors –

Celina - Real estate investment trust – supported by CDBG – public private partnership – how would that look?

Pat - Don't forget the VHIP program, VT Housing Improvement Program: \$50,000 per unit for repairs needed to bring vacant rental units up to code. 20% match. VHIP 2.0 has grants and money for landlords as well. [Vermont Housing Improvement Program \(VHIP\) - Original | Agency of Commerce and Community Development](#) VHIP is a revolving loan fund

Karen. We may want to add a Revolving Loan Fund to the CDBG application to encourage housing rehab.

GS – need an emergency shelter. (This could be part of the community center item below)

Celina – Kirkpatrick can still be used. Pat this would need to be officially recognized.

- **Neighborhood Support Infrastructure**

- lighting, parking, sidewalks

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Arion – there is already a plan for lighting, parking and sidewalks in the Village Expansion plan. Could be enhanced with additional funds.

GS – water, sewer, roads? Arion yes included in \$2.5M for Village Expansion.

KH – may need to relocate water, sewer, fire suppression, etc. that go under Rte. 2 at the blinking light intersection

GS does infrastructure waste water, etc. connect to the current system? Arion – yes.

Internet connectivity – CVFiber, write to Broadband Board re: funding

Celina - expansion of the district heating and cooling system, esp. if Goddard is used as an emergency management evacuation facility.

- Green Space, Trails, Foot Bridges, Gazebo, Recreation Improvements

Melissa – greens replanting after the flood.

Arion – will be a large green space and there will be a connection to rec. field.

Melissa – rain gardens – material to rebuild river sides (flood mitigation materials)

KB – sculpture park, relocate the war memorial from the library.

Pat - Technical assistance from the Army Corps for reconnecting floodplains, plantings, etc. Takes a while but is free engineering through the Lake Champlain Basin Program.

GS – opportunity to become a hub for the cross Vt. trail

Celina - food security — community gardens greenhouses compost processing center Green houses and community gardens – put under Community Spaces

- Community Center, Town Office, Existing Co-op Building Renovation

New community center w/n new village expansion. - Edible Forest gardens, seed banks.

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GS - Change term from community spaces to community resources. Make sure to include the Health Center in community resources.

- Walking/Biking Connection from Goddard to Health Center, Post Office, Library to Outer Spice
- Second point of Egress to Route 2

KH – Wayfinding System – signage directing people to various locations and services

- Revolving loan fund for housing rehab
- Project Management for all projects
- Matching Funds for Infrastructure Grants (roads, bridges, water system)

KB - Plnfl. currently has a revolving loan fund of \$100K – building rehab, leverage funds for homeowners.

Celina – electric car charging station, shuttles, mobility hub in village & Goddard

Priority Project submission to pull out the important themes we identified. There may be others we add, but this is a good starting point.

1. Accessibility and Inclusion
2. Affordability
3. Connection, Walkability, Bikeability
4. Community Development
5. Community Engagement
6. Safety and Resilience
7. Sustainability
8. Adaptability

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**What Themes are met through these ideas?**

Village Expansion: 2, 3, 4, 8, 9

Goddard Campus: goal is to qualify on all themes

Neighborhood support: 1, 3, 5, 6,

Water/wastewater: 6, 1, 5,

Goddard heating/cooling: 7, 8, 4

Green (trees), rec. trails: 1, 3, 4, 5

Gazebo/picnic space: 5,

Trees & plantings; 7, 8, 6

Rain garden & flood mitigation: 6, 7, 8, 5

Sculpture, community garden & war memorial: 5, 7, 1, 2

Community spaces/resources: 1, 4, 5, 6

Coop Bldg. repurposing: 4, 5 (need structural work)

Town office: 1, 5, 8 (Coop bldg. reuse)

Goddard, THC,: 3, 4, 7, 8

CB- Community engagement process – CVRPC has funding for a master plan, flexible uses, broader vision for Plnfl. – take identified priorities and funding sources and ask community for help to prioritize

Pat - Prioritize projects based on funding opportunities (DR, CDBG)

CB-Future partnerships with other towns.

KH- Focus for CDBG should be on housing, infrastructure and recovery needs.

Walking, biking paths: 3, 1

Sidewalks & Rte. 2: 6, 3

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Egress: 1, 3, 6

Transportation (shuttle, EV hub): 7, 8, 6

Arion – need to write project to meet the grant criteria

Pat – clarified that DR - Disaster recovery: Community Development Block Grant - It is the funding coming in to recover from floods.

Celina Barton:

Did we discuss wraparound services for housing tenants? This is the thing that failed last time and what Phil Scott has been critical of, HUD's Housing First model without the proper support for housing clients to be successful and build lives beyond the status quo. Support services to residents (wrap around services – job training)

Pat: this would be a bigger question for the town in the future and would rely on community partners providing services.

Funders Roundtable meeting next week Tuesday 2/11 at 1:30 by TEAMS invite– Pat will review the list of participants and contact Sierra Davidson with who else to invite to the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40AM.