

Date: January 27, 2025
To: Plainfield Select Board
From: Plainfield Recovery Grants Work Group
Re: Recovery Grants Update

The process of funding our recovery efforts has been moving forward at a steady, thoughtful pace, considering all of the complexities involved. In order to manage the multiple grants and projects coming online, we are working with state representatives to create a monthly Plainfield Recovery Funding roundtable, which we anticipate to begin in February. This will help us coordinate and collaborate with federal and state agencies and regional organizations who have offered their support and expertise.

Concurrently over the last several months, the grants work group has been working on the following grants:

1. FEMA Public Assistance:
 - a. Documenting the extensive damage in the FEMA PA Damage Inventory. This work serves to provide a basis for all of the future reimbursement and recovery projects that can be funded either through FEMA or other sources. We successfully compiled this inventory, complete with GPS coordinates, pictures and details, meeting the FEMA deadline. Estimated damage exceeds original estimate of \$10-15 Million.
 - b. Working on prioritizing projects within the damage inventory for reimbursement, in order to begin to generate cash flow back to the town for emergency expenses already incurred. Estimated \$1.5M will be submitted and reimbursed beginning approximately 90-120 days. There will be coordination between FEMA PA and FHWA reimbursement.

2. FHWA:
 - a. Coordinating emergency repairs along Brook Road in accordance with the FHWA grant that provides for 100% reimbursement of emergency repairs through the period ending April 4, 2025, after which the amount reduces to 90%. Our goal was to complete all emergency repairs in time for winter. This goal was met. Documentation being prepared for reimbursement submission. There will be coordination between FEMA PA and FHWA reimbursement.
 - b. Hiring a qualified engineering firm to evaluate options for rebuilding/reopening Brook Road. Sections will be grouped into projects. Each project will have its own project manager and a many step process to scope, design and cost out permanent repairs. Each project will have public hearings as part of the decision making process.
 - c. First project is hiring a Project Manager to oversee the permanent repair process of the Mill Street Bridge, which is part of the FHWA connector corridor, and will be even if a new road is designated in the future.

3. EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION GRANT:

- a. Coordinated site visits, grant eligibility and application process for properties through the Emergency Watershed Protection program. Four of 15 sites qualified for funding.
- b. This is a 75% grant, with 25% match. Two of the four properties are in the buyout program, which if they go forward, would disqualify them from this grant. Brian Voigt from CVRPC will coordinate the grant process for the town. **We need approval from the Select Board to move forward with design and costing. No obligation or commitment has to be made at this point.**

Qualified properties: 1495 Coburn Road, 99 Brook Road (in buyout program);
203 Martin Meadow, 125 Barre Hill Rd

4. MUNICIPAL PLANNING GRANT:

- a. Exploring two options for use of a \$30K Municipal Planning Grant: Green Space planning once homes are removed and at the base of Great Brook
- b. In-fill Housing Study to evaluate all of the town's housing possibilities. This could also be funded in other ways that we're exploring.

5. ADVANCE SYSTEM FUNDING GRANT:

Working with river scientists and water resource organizations to evaluate the condition of Great Brook and to learn about options for mitigating future hazards and living in harmony with the brook. Securing expert assistance to synthesize all of the data we have and to add to model future options, which will be used to share with the community.

6. CDBG-DR GRANT:

- a. \$68M to Vermont; \$55 Million to Washington and Lamoille Counties. \$10 Million maximum on project application.
- b. Will use the Regional Priority Project submission as a basis for our application.
- c. Melissa Bounty from CVEDC is joining us for a discussion 1/28.
- d. Opportunity to also include the Village Expansion project into this.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Hatcher, Town Grants Administrator

On behalf of the Grants Work Group:

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