

Date: March 10, 2025
To: Plainfield Select Board
From: Plainfield Recovery Grants Work Group
Re: Recovery Grants Update

We have now firmly moved into the permanent recovery projects chapter of our work both with FHWA and FEMA PA.

1. FEMA Public Assistance:
 - a. The Damage Inventory is very close to being finalized and signed after many changes and differing guidance from FEMA personnel over the last two months. Gary Smith and our consultants from The Integrity Group have worked hard to ensure that the application is complete.
 - b. Priority permanent projects will include sites outside of Brook Rd right of way. Cameron, Lee, Gore, Maxfield, and Recreation Field roads are at the top of the list for site visits.
 - c. Site visits dates are being explored. We need the weather to cooperate.
 - d. Reimbursements for emergency repairs should begin processing within the next couple of weeks
2. FHWA:
 - a. We are clear that all sites on Brook Rd are eligible for FHWA funding for permanent repairs. Damage reports (DDIR), hiring project managers and preliminary engineering must be completed and submitted to VTrans before September 15, 2026. We are on a very fast time line to get all of this work completed, which will enable us to have funding obligated before September 30, 2026.
 - b. Josh is working with volunteers to help complete the DDIRs starting on March 10, 2025, with a goal of completing these by the end of March.
 - c. Hiring a project manager for the Mill Street Bridge project is underway. This is our first permanent repair project under FHWA.
 - d. There are 13 project "sites" identified with FHWA. Each one will have its own Project Manager and process.
 - e. George Springston has been briefed on the process and asked to help ensure that sufficient river/watershed experience is included in the decision.
3. ADVANCE SYSTEM FUNDING GRANT:
 - a. Michael Zahner is working with Steve Libby of VEM on this application, which will provide a comprehensive H&H study top to bottom of the Great Brook.
 - b. The estimated request is \$150K, with a 25% match. **UPDATE: THIS GRANT WILL BE 100% FUNDED WITH NO MATCH.**
4. EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION GRANT:

These funds are now under a moratorium.

5. **BATCHELDER DAM STUDY GRANT:** Michele Braun from Friends of the Winooski is coordinating this grant, estimated at \$125,000 to cover feasibility study of removal of the dam, which is **100% FUNDED**.
6. **CDBG, VCDP GRANT:**
 - a. Arion is heading up this application which is for a \$60K planning grant to support the final engineering of the Village Expansion project. 10% match, which can include in-kind hours.
 - b. Dan Fingas has set up an account in the GEARS system to upload documents for the grant.
7. **CDBG-DR GRANT:**
 - a. \$68M to Vermont; \$55 Million to Washington and Lamoille Counties. \$10 Million maximum on project application.
 - b. Plainfield was on the list of the top five areas to fund provided to Secretary Lindsay Kurr.
 - c. We are awaiting details but understand housing and infrastructure are primary focus areas.
 - d. Preliminary plans will be presented on March 20th, with a 30 day public comment period.
8. **ANIMATING INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT:**
 - a. Met with Jesse Cooper to discuss use of \$5K design grant application
 - b. Meeting with Recreation and Public Art committee on March 18th to discuss their involvement
 - c. Thoughts are to use this grant to kick off a public engagement process about the new green space in the village
9. **BECCA BALINT EARMARK REQUEST:**
 - a. Submitted preliminary request for \$1 Million to support housing expansion efforts. Awaiting more information about the application process and timing.
10. **FEMA BUYOUT:**
 - a. Awaiting confirmation from Vermont Emergency Management for all applications. Expect to hear soon.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Hatcher, Town Grants Administrator

On behalf of the Grants Work Group: Gary Smith, Michael Zahner, Josh Pitts, Arion Thiboumery, Michael Billingsley, Karl Bissex and Denise Wheeler