

CDBG/GRANT COMMITTEE MEETING

DECEMBER 17, 2009

4:00 PM

Attending: Art Bassin, Libby McKee, Kit White, Mike Cawley, Laberge Group Economic Development Manager Laura Oswald.

Prior to the meeting Art Bassin and Laura Oswald has toured the Town of Ancram to help familiarize Ms. Oswald with the conditions and assets of Ancram.

Following her introduction Laura Oswald explained the Program Objective and Funding Categories of grants that is available at the following Internet site:

<http://www.nysocr.org/FundingOpportunities/EDProgramGuidelines.pdf>

More information on CDBG Housing Grants Housing Grants can be found at the following site:

<http://www.nysocr.org/ProgramInformation/documents/housing08.pdf>

Notice of funding Availability: Note: The following site is for 2009. The 2010 notice has yet to be posted.

http://www.nysocr.org/uploads_wms/2009NOFA.pdf

Any decision to apply for grants should be decided the first week of January and a Notice of Request for Funding should be submitted immediately. The deadline for grant submission is **April 2010**.

Pre Submission Form: <http://www.nysocr.org/GrantAdministration/documents/ED%20Pre-submission%20form.pdf>

Should the town of Ancram decide to go forward with a CDBG Grant application and have Laberge Group Economic Development Manager Laura Oswald prepare the application the cost would be \$10,000. The fee to prepare the grant can be incorporated into the monies granted.

Overview of CDBG Program Guidelines has been placed as an addendum to these minutes.

The committee members thanked Laberge Group Economic Development Manager Laura Oswald and then discussed some points and priorities as follows:

1. Route 82/7 Intersection
 - a. The Intersection reconfiguration remains a concern. There was a consensus that the Route 82/7 Intersection remains a serious concern for the safety of vehicles approaching the intersection on Route 7 from the Northeast.
 - b. The Tin Smiths House future remains undetermined.
 - c. Identify exactly what needs to be done then find money to get the engineering work on the Intersection done.

2. Mike Cawley explained how the Town of Ancram could send an official “Prior Notice to go on Record” to the NYSDOT and Columbia County DOT that Ancram will not be responsible for any serious accident should it occur in and around the Route 82/7 Intersection.

Note: this could possibly encourage the NYS DOT to assume responsibility to fund the project to reconfigure the intersection at NYS expense.

3. Ancram Town Garage building and site. More information needed from the Garage Committee.
4. Recreation Field: Considering the age of the pool and facilities consideration should be given to the following:
 - a. Purchase a liner for the pool which may add a year or two to the pool
 - b. Move the location of the pool/recreational area to the Town Hall property.
5. Solar panels placed on Town Hall building.

There was a consensus that the CDBG Committee and the Grant Committee becomes one committee to be named Ancram Community Grant Committee.

The CDBG Committee was set up to implement the CDBG Grant and develop the community Development Strategy Plan ...which has now been implemented and copies made available.

The Grant Committee was set up to find and apply for grants appropriate for the Town of Ancram based on the town’s priorities.

The Grants Committee/CDBG Committee merger creates a stronger grants committee to focus on the next set of grants from either the CDBG sources or other sources.

Libby McKee was appointed Chairman.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:07 PM.

Next Meeting Thursday, January 7, 2010 7:00 PM

ADDENDUM

CDBG program guidelines overview:

1. Economic Development: Available to communities for transitional economic development activities such as business attraction, expansion, and retention projects to:
 - a. Provide financial assistance to businesses for an identified CDBG eligible activity which will result in the creation or retention of permanent, private sector job opportunities principally for persons from low and moderate income families.
 - b. Construct or improve publicly owned infrastructure necessary to accommodate the creation, expansion or retention of a business which will result in the creation

or retention of permanent, private sector job opportunities principally for persons from low and moderate income families.

2. Small Business Assistance: Provides resources to communities in an effort to promote entrepreneurship as a vehicle for sustainable economic development and growth while providing job opportunities for person from LMI (Low–middle Income) families. For the purpose of this program, a small business is defined as a commercial enterprise that is independently owned, operated, and controlled, and has twenty five (25) or fewer full-time equivalent employees at the time of application.
3. Microenterprises: Provides resources to support and foster the development or expansion of micro businesses by providing grants in conjunction with capacity building and entrepreneurial assistance. Small businesses will be eligible provided the outcome is to create 1 new full time job or equivalent part time jobs.

Eligible activities include providing assistance to businesses that are involved in sectors of manufacturing, warehousing and distribution, agri-business, high technology, research and development and traditional and innovative small business endeavors. Market driven businesses (i.e. restaurant, retail) will be considered when that business is an integral part of a community's revitalization efforts. Each beneficiary who receives financial assistance under the NYS CDBG Microenterprise Program must be certified as having completed an approved local entrepreneurial assistance or small business training program.

In addition Ms Oswald gave the committee specifications on:

NYS CDBG Public Facility Grants.

1. Public Infrastructure (Water & Sewer) assistance is available for towns that do not have public infrastructure and need to develop it or if there is a need to repair or replace failing systems, expand existing systems and construct new service to areas that are not currently served.

Note: Proposed work should be in response to a recent public health or safety-related situation that either damaged the system or made necessary to extend the service due to a health, safety, or environmental problem.

2. Public Facilities funding is available for construction or renovation of facilities for programs geared toward a limited clientele, including senior citizens, disabled persons, children, or the community as a whole.

Note: To be eligible for funds, at least 51% of the persons expected to use the facilities must be (LMI).

New York State CDBG Housing Grants

1. Housing Rehabilitation –provides funds to (LMI) owner and tenant occupied property owners, to make necessary repairs and improvements.
Grants range from \$10,000 to \$25,000 per dwelling unit. In most cases landlords are required to contribute matching funds to the project.
2. Homeownership –Funds provide opportunities to (LMI) households and/or individuals by subsidizing the closing costs and/or purchase price of to make them affordable.

3. Private Water/Wastewater- Assistance to provide safe drinking water and wastewater systems to (LMI) households

Note: This might be a consideration for the upgrading of the sewer system of The Mill.

4. New Construction-Funds used to allow development of affordable housing units if carried out by a local government as last resort housing. This is very restrictive and few applications of this type are submitted. Must consult with Office of Community Renewal before proceeding with an application.
5. Mobile Homes – Grant possibilities to assist in upgrading the mobile homes of LMI
More information is needed.