

GRANTS & FUNDING COMMITTEE MEETING
MAY 28, 2009
Minutes

Present:

Suzanne Bressler, Chair
Libby McKee, Vice-Chair
Art Bassin,
Bob Murphy
Mike Cawley

Absent:

Jim Miller
John MacArthur

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6PM. The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and approved.

The Chair reported that two applications were submitted to Congressman Murphy's office (with information from Jim Miller and Jim MacArthur) for highway resurfacing and the highway garage so that they will be on the radar for stimulus funds or appropriations next year.

Art Bassin updated the committee on Community Development Strategic Plan grant applications. He said that he hoped to have a draft of the plan ready by the end of June. He then discussed the next to upcoming grant opportunities; specifically a Technical Assistance grant of \$21,000 which requires a \$14,000 match (deadline 11/15/09) and a much bigger \$400,000 'no match' grant for construction & renovation. The committee discussed possible usages for the grants and agreed that the intersection of Rts 7 & 82 (carving back the retaining walls) was probably the number one priority followed by solutions for the Stiehle house, Tin Smith's house, Porters building, Simon's General Store, The Little Store and other structures in the hamlet center. The Committee briefly discussed how to decide which projects to support with CDBG monies; public versus private owners and whether the Town should or could take on these projects. Art also mentioned that to achieve anything significant for the town, we're probably looking at a series of \$400,000 grants over multiple years. The Chair noted that this larger \$400,000 no match grant is one the Recovery Center said Ancram would likely be a good candidate for under stimulus funds, once the Committee had submitted its list of priorities. Following the finalization of the Comprehensive Plan's CDBG Strategic Plan, the Committee can indicate exactly what nuts and bolts issues need funding for the \$400,000 potential grant to be applicable. In mid-July, the Chair will call the Office of Community Renewal within the NYS DHCR to arrange a meeting in August to discuss applying for this larger grant. Further discussions will occur at future meetings.

Vice Chair McKee updated the committee on information gleaned from her meetings as a member of the Columbia County Traffic Safety Board specifically as it related to the intersection of Routes 7 and 82. There is a meeting scheduled with Jim Rapoli, Assistant Transportation Analyst and head of the planning unit for the end of June to discuss problems and options for the intersection. Mr. Rapoli recommended that the meeting remain small and include the Traffic Safety representative (Libby), the Town supervisor and the highway supervisor. Libby mentioned that Jim MacArthur might not be available. It was agreed that it was important for Jim MacArthur to attend but that the meeting should not be delayed if he cannot.

Bob Murphy updated the committee on the status of solar installation at Town Hall. He said that four

regional companies had been asked to bid. Two declined but he had received bids from the other two. It was agreed that he would put together a background packet and summary of the two bids so that it could be submitted to the Town Board for consideration/discussion and subsequently be ready to go if and when stimulus funding becomes available.

Vice Chair McKee made a motion that the Town Board be asked to identify the current Disaster Preparedness plan to see if it is current and up-to date. If it is not, perhaps the Committee could investigate securing federal funding through either Homeland Security or FEMA allocations to upgrade and update the plan. The motion was seconded by Bob Murphy and passed unanimously. The Chair said that she would follow up with the Board, and Michael Cawley agreed to be the committee's representative on this issue in dealing with the Board and other parties.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12PM. The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, June 25th, at 6PM.