

## **REGULAR MEETING - BAR**

Brownfield Area-Wide Revitalization (BAR) Grant Sub- Committee  
Friday, September 13, 2019 – 9:10 AM  
Merrill Seney Community Room  
Thompson Town Hall

### **Minutes**

**Members Attending:** J. Blanchette, Chair; J. Hall; C. Langlois; S. Lewis; R. Waldron

**Members Absent:** B. Davis; N. O'Leary

**Others Attending:** W. Bugden, CME; S. Donohoe; K. Beausoleil, First Selectman; T. Penn-Gesek, Dir. Planning & Development

1. CALL TO ORDER 9:08 a.m.
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - August 9, 2019 Regular Meeting  
J. Hall moves/C. Langlois seconds approval of the minutes as presented.  
Motion passes unanimously.
3. CORRESPONDENCE  
None
4. CITIZEN COMMENTS  
S. Donohoe reminds the First Selectman that the sign for the BAR Grant award is still up at the Rivermill property, and that it needs to come down. He also comments that a number of the DOT reflective signs for crosswalks have been moved to new locations. He asks W. Bugden who would be the best point of contact to follow up on the cleanup of the CL&P transformers, once Bugden is officially separated from CME. Bugden confirms that J. Gumpert or another official representative of his firm would be the appropriate contact for that. Bugden will draft a letter to Eversource regarding ownership of the cleanup, with cc to the town (First Selectman/Planner). The town has an interest in the cleanup of the transformer site regardless of the future disposition of the rest of the mill property. Proximity to wetlands area makes any contamination a potential for concern.
5. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

#### **a. CME BAR Grant task review**

**Budget update** – Per the First Selectman, roughly half of the BAR Grant funds remain available for use (\$112k estimated). The committee would like a clear presentation of how the funds have been used thus far. A number of the potential pedestrian improvement projects are discussed: connection of the Airline Trail to Route 12 corridor pedestrian routes? It is generally agreed that the larger

pedestrian improvements need to be broken down into discrete sections: Route 200 up to Town Hall (Northbound/southbound could be viewed independently); Town Hall to Library; Library to Buckley Hill Road intersection; and the Main Street Loop. Each of these sections needs to be assessed for its potential utility to current residents; its utility inside the long-range plan for the River Mill and its adjacent development; and the relative costs to bring the plan to shovel-ready status. Bugden also suggests that the prioritization of the tasks could include the likelihood that additional grant funds may be available for some of them (e.g. connecting recreation trails to regular sidewalk systems). Bugden suggests that CME could prepare a “menu” presentation of estimated engineering costs for each of the pedestrian sections described above, as well as the planning of the Buckley Hill Road intersection. It is suggested that DECD has an interest in seeing the BAR Grant funds effectively applied, and that they might be able to speak with DOT about taking on some of the responsibility for improving the Buckley Hill intersection, to further maximize the effect of the grant money.

**BAR grant Community outreach funds** – R. Waldron would also like a breakdown of how this portion of the funds have been used/committed. TLGV awards are to be announced soon for the grant program under which the Planner submitted a request to fund design of a wayfinding program. \$5k of BAR Grant funds were suggested as match funds within that proposal.

**Zoning reg update status** – J.Guzskowski/CME is still available to review the NECCOG draft with the Planner and Land Use staff. Planner confirms she will make arrangements for another meeting before the P&Z special meeting on 30 Sept.

**Blain road intersection encroachment permit** – First Selectman sent an inquiry with copies of the aerial renderings from CME to the D.O.T. District 2 contact for permits. It is preferred that D.O.T. accept the proposal that the town can do all the work with local resources. No response as of yet. Some alternate contacts at the department are suggested (Andrew Morrow? Rich Chapman?), if response remains slow. W. Bugden suggests that because no additional paving is being proposed, approval may be simpler.

#### **b. River Mill Development (RMR) development progress**

W. Bugden has little to report about the ongoing negotiations between Rexnor and RMR. EPA and CT Deep have been working to mediate between the two parties, and a meeting is scheduled for the end of September. Hopefully there will be more substantive news to report after that meeting.

#### **c. Other**

- Chair J. Blanchette has scheduled a “Walktober” event with TLGV, to do a walking tour of the River Mill site on Saturday 21 September. J. Iamartino of the Historical Society will be her co-host of the event. The event will be posted on the town’s website/social media pages to generate additional interest.
- P. Lang has invited members of the committee to tour another local mill project. Tabled for discussion at the October meeting.
- R. Waldron reminds the committee to RSVP for Portrait of a Graduate, an event co-hosted by the Branding Subcommittee and the Board of

Education on 2 October. All members are encouraged to attend. The Planner has received RSVPs from all members of MSRAC except N. O'Leary.

6. MEMBER COMMENTS - none

7. ADJOURNMENT – 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tyra Penn-Gesek, Director of Planning & Development