

REGULAR MEETING - BAR

Brownfield Area-Wide Revitalization (BAR) Grant Sub- Committee
Friday, November 8, 2019 – 9:10 AM
Merrill Seney Community Room
Thompson Town Hall

Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER – 9:09 AM
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - a. September 13, 2019 Regular Meeting – J. Hall moves, S. Lewis seconds to approve. Passes unanimously
3. CORRESPONDENCE
None
4. CITIZEN COMMENTS – S. Donohoe reminds the committee that the BAR Grant sign is still up at 929 Riverside. K. Beausoleil confirms that DPW has been asked to remove it.
5. COMMITTEE BUSINESS
 - a. 2020 meeting schedule – The BAR Grant Sub-Committee will meet on the same calendar approved under the MSRAC meeting minutes. No additional vote taken.
 - b. Public Information Meeting on November 20
 - i. RMR Progress
Developer J. Gumpert came to visit First Selectman K. Beausoleil on Thursday 24 October to update on progress from meetings with Rexnord & EPA/DEEP. At that meeting it was agreed to arrange a public presentation on 20 November, 6 p.m. at the public library.
 - ii. Speakers/topics
W. Bugden has invited representatives of CT DEEP, EPA, DECD and CT Trust to attend and possibly speak at the event. M. Lewis of CT DEEP and S. Rodriguez of the EPA office in Boston have confirmed their attendance. Other RSVPs are pending. Both gentlemen will be invited to speak, in addition to the main presentation by J. Gumpert. T. Penn-Gesek will reach out to state and federal legislators to attend as well. W. Bugden emphasizes that EPA has been working beyond typical expectations to help facilitate the project, and that they consider it a priority. Confirmed speakers will be: J. Gumpert; J. Blanchette, MSRAC/BAR Grant Chair; J. Guskowski & K. Giansanti, CME; T. Penn-Gesek, Dir. Planning & Development. K. Beausoleil has been invited to speak, as the leader of the initiative to date (confirmation pending). B. Yacino, Chair of EDC and R. Waldron, Chair of Branding, will also be invited to speak. 2 hours will be set aside for the presentation, 6-8 p.m.
 - iii. Make Agenda
Chair Blanchette will draft a sample agenda/timeline for the presenters, with a suggested order of speakers and topics, to forward to the committee members for review.
 - iii. Marketing/outreach materials and methods
Part of the BAR Grant funds are designated for marketing activities around related tasks, and will be used to cover costs to publicize the event to residents. K. Giansanti and T. Penn-Gesek will collaborate on a

press release to go to local media (Villager, Bulletin, Courant, WINY). Advertising will be purchased in the Shoppers Guide, Facebook sponsored post. Information will be shared via town website, Facebook page. T. Penn-Gesek will try to arrange a radio interview on WINY as well.

c. CME BAR Grant task review

i. BAR funds remaining

Quick estimate from K. Beausoleil is that roughly \$90-\$95k has been either expended or has pending invoices. Turnaround from the state has been slow on some recent invoices.

ii. Time remaining to spend funds

Not substantively discussed

iii. Zoning reg update status

Progress has been steady with P&Z. Next meeting to discuss the re-write is scheduled for 18 November. T. Penn-Gesek has started creating a "clean" draft with the Commission's edits to give back to NECCOG for the final iteration, and also to pass to town counsel for review. The plan is to have the document completed by the end of 2019.

iv. Blain road intersection encroachment permit

J. Guskowski confirms that CME has been working on the Blain Road estimate, but there is a question of the level of survey that will be required. J. Blanchette believes that CME has a high-level survey already completed and in a CAD file, from prior work done related to 630 Riverside. K. Beausoleil confirms that his contact at DOT (Chapman) has seen the concept design for the intersection provided by CME, and generally approves the idea, with some specific suggestions (e.g. chevron signs)

v. Other potential sidewalk and/or intersection projects

Brief discussion. At the prior suggestion of J. Blanchette, T. Penn-Gesek is planning on submitting a LOTCIP application to complete some of the proposed sidewalk/intersection projects under the BAR Grant. Funds available to complete design need to be determined before the application to fund the construction can be submitted to NECCOG for review. J. Blanchette, J. Guskowski and T. Penn-Gesek will arrange a time during the week of 11 November to discuss in greater detail

d. Wayfinding signs – crowdsourcing

A crowdsourcing campaign to make up the shortfall of funds to initiate the wayfinding design quoted by CME (estimate \$20k) has been started. Sustainable CT and IOBY are partnering to match crowdsourced funds on approved projects through the IOBY website. The campaign is currently live in a "soft-launch" period through the end of November, and donations may be entered. A link will be sent to members of the subcommittee for review, and to encourage their donations. The designated BAR grant and EDC funds for the project are able to be entered and leveraged into the match grant as well. The campaign will be presented officially to the public at the 20 November event.

e. Other

S. Donohoe requests to be added to the agenda for the December meeting, to discuss some design funding possibilities he has been exploring.

6. MEMBER COMMENTS – none additional

7. ADJOURNMENT – 10:10 AM

Respectfully Submitted,

Tyra Penn-Gesek, Director of Planning and Development.