

REGULAR MEETING - BAR

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

Minutes

Members attending: J. Blanchette, chair; C. Langlois; R. Waldron; N. O’Leary; B. Davis.

Members absent: J. Hall; S. Lewis

Others attending: A. St Onge, First Selectperson; K. Beausoleil, Selectman; R. Benoit, Dir. DPW; T. Penn-Gesek, Dir. Planning & Development

1. CALL TO ORDER – 9:10 a.m.
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 8, 2019 Regular Meeting
Davis Moves/Langlois seconds to approve the minutes. Passes unanimously.
3. CORRESPONDENCE - None
4. CITIZEN COMMENTS - none
5. COMMITTEE BUSINESS
 - a. 11/20 Public info meeting – general discussion that the event went well and accomplished its purpose. Attendance is estimated between 60-80 people, although no formal headcount was taken.
 - b. John Gumpert liason –St. Onge affirms that she has a meeting scheduled with Gumpert in January.
 - c. Grant Funds remaining
 - i. Within CME proposal – Guskowski states roughly \$25k remains. Of that, \$5k is committed to the Wayfinding proposal. The invoice for November was also just received. Guskowski believes it is for \$14-\$15k (clarification: that amount includes an invoice that was just paid. Actual invoice amount for Nov is \$6144.26).
 - ii. Other funds to be used for infrastructure design – Penn-Gesek confirms total funds expended under the BAR Grant to date are \$83,935.78. According to Blanchette’s estimates, a minimum of \$58k would be left out of the BAR grant for engineering & design. It may be possible to reassign funds not expended by CME under the existing contract to extend that remainder to \$80k.
 - d. Potential LOTCIP funded projects to discuss and prioritize
 - i. Blain Road intersection CT DOT encroachment permit. – Discussion of sending an RFP to local engineering firms to complete the design according to the substance of the CME

concept drawing. Proposal received from CME was too high for consideration (\$45k). Blanchette states that there are CAD drawings of area surveys done by CME under the Brownfield Grant. Those drawings need to be forwarded back to Penn-Gesek to pass to the wetlands agent. Wetlands permit form to be completed thereafter by Blanchette & Penn-Gesek. Blanchette would write RFP to send to local firms. RFP should require interested firms to demonstrate experience working with DOT. Additional requirements as suggested in correspondence from R. Chapman/DOT are chevron signs, sight-lines & radii. Benoit can pull an encroachment permit for Blain from DOT. Estimates less than \$20k to complete the required construction. **Waldron moves that Blanchette should write the RFP. Davis seconds. Motion passes unanimously.**

- ii. Buckley Hill Road intersection design and permitting – following general discussion, consensus is reached to delay pursuing this project until the redevelopment of 929 is ready to commence. It is presumed that DOT will be more open to discussion of adding traffic signal once the large-scale project is materially underway.
 - iii. Sidewalk reconstruction, north of river mill – Sidewalk reconstruction north of the mill is not discussed in depth outside the inclusion with the Buckley Hill Road intersection
 - iv. Sidewalk reconstruction, south of the river mill down to Dollar General - see notes below the numbered items
 - v. Sidewalk reconstruction, south of Dollar General down to route 200 – see notes below the numbered items
 - vi. Main street sidewalk and road reconstruction – DPW Director states that there are plans for summer of 2020 to do work on the water mains in this area, which would make it impractical to pursue the sidewalk repairs beforehand.
 - The committee reaches consensus that some portion of the length of sidewalk between Rawson Road and Route 200 should be the target area for the remaining engineering & subsequent submission for LOTCIP funding. After some discussion as to which end of the sidewalk to start, it is agreed to start at Rawson and go south until funds are exhausted. Construction cost estimates are needed. **Waldron moves to have CME work up construction cost estimates for the project. Langlois seconds. Motion passes unanimously.** Following the receipt of the cost estimates, the committee will discuss them at their January meeting prior to developing the RFP. The goal is to maximize the remaining engineering funds from the BAR grant (\$60k) into a project that will meet the funding floor for the LOTCIP program (\$300k)
- e. Engineering RFPs – discussion to be continued in January. The RFPs are to be constructed to request bids for designing the whole length from

Rawson Rd to Route 200, and also to be segmented into portions, in case the full project will require more engineering funds than the town will have available. If the amount of the full project exceeds the remaining BAR grant funds, it may be possible to seek the balance from the town.

- f. IOBY Wayfinding update - \$7k remains to be raised, out of the \$20,655 originally sought. The money encumbered from the Trails Committee will be added in prior to the end of the month, bringing the remainder to be raised online to \$1000. Any funds raised beyond the \$20,655 may be applied to related projects, such as the update of the informational sign for Town Hall.

6. MEMBER COMMENTS – none additional

7. ADJOURNMENT – 10:24 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tyra Penn-Gesek, Director of Planning & Development