

REGULAR MEETING- BAR Grant

Brownfield Area-Wide Revitalization (BAR) Grant Sub-Committee
Friday, January 10 2020 – 9:15 AM
Merrill Seney Community Room
Thompson Town Hall

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

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

1. CALL TO ORDER – 9:06 a.m.
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 13, 2019 Regular Meeting
N. O’Leary moves/J. Hall seconds to approve the minutes as presented. Passes unanimously
3. CORRESPONDENCE – none
4. CITIZEN COMMENTS – none
5. COMMITTEE BUSINESS
 - a. John Gumpert liaison – updates: A. St Onge anticipates meeting with J. Gumpert in January, but a date has not been established.
 - b. Grant funds remaining –
 - i. CME expenditures update: T. Penn-Gesek confirms that invoices are paid through October 2019. November invoice has been received. J. Guskowski confirms December invoice has been sent. T. Penn-Gesek will pay the remaining invoices for 2019 upon receipt, and then return to paying in quarterly installments starting with January 2020.
 - ii. Determine remaining funds to be used for infrastructure design – not discussed in specific detail
 - c. Blain Road intersection CT DOT encroachment permit engineering proposals – review and recommend award: proposals were received from Provost & Rovero and Killingly Engineering. Committee reviews briefly side by side. J. Blanchette confirms that both firms are well-qualified for the project. Provost & Rovero is the lower amount. B. Davis moves and J. Hall seconds to accept the proposal from Provost & Rovero. The motion passes unanimously. A. St Onge will notify both firms of the decision.
 - d. LOTCIP construction funded sidewalk project – Rawson Ave to Route 200
 - i. Scope: with or without new granite curb and brick pavers? There is some discussion about the relative costs of the granite vs asphalt or concrete curbing between the committee and DPW Director R. Benoit. Costs of installation vs durability and costs of maintenance over time are discussed, without specific resolution. Other questions raised by R. Benoit and/or K. Beausoleil: what are the ADA width requirement for sidewalks? What is the possible impact of the project on Bike/Ped projects that have been previously proposed? The State may have water main work planned. If that work is scheduled, the State should be made

aware of Thompson's plans to improve the sidewalks. It would be preferable to do that work ahead of the work by the State. J. Blanchette will check with the state regarding their mill/repavement schedule, and asks R. Benoit to check his email history for any threads related to such work.

- ii. CME construction cost estimate – In addition to the two versions of the LOTCIP worksheet provided for the meeting (with/without granite curb), CME will provide two refinements: a) with the granite curbing but no brick soldier course, and b) no granite/no brick/poured concrete
- iii. CME draft RFP for design – schedule – need LOTCIP first? J. Blanchette wants to know more about the submission format. She also raises the question of whether there may be an upper limit to the amount of funds that may be available for sidewalk improvements vs other eligible activities. It is agreed that T. Penn-Gesek will contact NECCOG to arrange a follow up meeting with J. Blanchette, J. Guskowski, R. Benoit, T. Penn-Gesek and J. Larkin/NECCOG to review the requirements and strategize the next steps to move the application forward. The RFP may be re-drafted following this meeting. B. Davis asks about the general time-frame for a start date, once the project is approved for funding. Best-guess estimate is 2 years.
- iv. Consultant interview team members – J. Blanchette proposes potential members of a team to interview firms submitting to the RFP. TBD at a later date, but likely to include Blanchette, Benoit, Penn-Gesek, among other logical candidates.
- e. Other Committee Business – J. Guskowski informs the committee that CME has been acquired by another, larger firm: CHA. No changes are anticipated for existing contracts.
- f. IOBY- Wayfinding Update: T. Penn-Gesek confirms that the crowdfunding campaign is complete and was fully funded. 42 individual donors contributed funds, including donations from Thompson Trails, EDC and 40 community residents and businesses. Donations were matched in the Sustainable CT/IOBY partnership to bring the total funds raised to \$20,872.08 Funds should be released to the town in 5-15 days and will be put toward the CME Wayfinding design proposal. Roughly \$8k of funds from the online campaign may be available to direct toward the proposed electronic message sign for Town Hall. CME will send an updated project agreement to T. Penn-Gesek for signature and activation.

6. MEMBER COMMENTS –none additional

7. ADJOURNMENT – 9:52 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tyra Penn-Gesek, Director of Planning & Development