

**A JOINT MEETING OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
SUBCOMMITTEE AND TOWN COUNCIL**

**Tuesday, February 7, 2023 – 6:00 PM
Veterans Room**

Minutes

Subcommittee Members in Attendance: Committee Chairman David Adams, Ctz Mbr Bernardone, and Ctz Mbr LaRochelle

Subcommittee Members Excused: Clr Lazo

Subcommittee Members Absent: Clr Daou

Others: George Chenier, Clr Marketti, Clr Steeves, Clr Daniel and Peg Dean

Documents:

-Draft Minutes of January 4, 2023

-Memo: CDBG FY22 and FY23 Proposed Activities

-CDBG FY19 Commercial Rehab – 300 Main

-CDBG Slum Blight Survey

6:00 PM meeting called to order.

1. Roll Call

2. Consider and accept Planning and Development Meeting Minutes of January 4, 2023.

Motion Ctz Mbr LaRochelle, Seconded by Ctz Mbr Bernardone, 3-0-0.

3. Discuss/review applying for the Community Development Block Group Mini-Entitlement FY2022 FY2023 for \$16.5M \$1.65M for housing rehab, commercial rehab, code enforcement and a planning activity. Entertain a motion to Town Council for approval and to authorize the Town Manager to sign all related documents.

Motion Ctz Mbr LaRochelle, Seconded by Ctz Mbr Bernardone, 3-0-0.

Ms. Dean explained they had to double the requests, covering FY22 and FY23, this requirement came from the state. There were three public hearings and there was praise from Clr Steeves due to the larger public participation. Ms. LaRochelle asked about Morris St. that had been noted on the materials, Ms. Dean explained this was the initial intend but the public pushed for housing. At one of public hearings they spoke of a high level plan for all the parks and Community Center which is being recommended by the Recreation Director. There was much discussion on the use of the grant including Clr Marketti and Mr. Chenier that discussed housing loans, but Ms. Dean noted the state believes they should not because the town will not get the most out of their funds.

4. Discuss/review rescinding agenda item #16 from Town Council meeting 11/07/2022, “Vote to allow the Economic Development and Planning Department to accept the lowest quote to furnish and install (2) two awning sat 300 Main St. for not more than \$10,814.00 pending approval from the Massachusetts Historical Commission, and authorize the Town Manager to sign all related documents.” Entertain a motion to Town Council to rescind.

Motion Ctz Mbr LaRochelle, Seconded by Ctz Mbr Bernardone, 3-0-0.

Ms. Dean explained why she is rescinding the motion. Based on our last meeting about this agenda item she asked us to approve the lowest bid but when she went out for quotes it was actually higher.

5. Discuss/review accepting quote and entering into an agreement with Graphics Unlimited to furnish and install (2) two awnings at 300 Main St. for \$13,100.00. Entertain a motion to Town Council for approval and to authorize the Town Manager to sign all related documents.

Motion Ctz Mbr LaRochelle, Seconded by Ctz Mbr Bernardone, 3-0-0.

6. Discuss/review entering into a contract for \$2,000.00 with Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) to help complete the Slums and Blights Survey needed for our CDBG application activity Commercial Rehab to be funded by ARPA funds. Entertain a motion to Town Council for approval and to authorize the Town Manager to sign all related documents.

Motion Ctz Mbr LaRochelle, Seconded by Ctz Mbr Bernardone, 3-0-0.

Ms. Dean explained it is to complete Slum and Blights Survey. Clr Steeves asked what exactly they would do, Ms. Dean stated to complete the survey in order to have findings determine if the Town meets the 25% slum/blight threshold.

7. Discuss/review proposed Mass Works project at Southbridge Innovation Center being brought to the Town by Worcester Business Development Corporation and take any action thereof.

Ms. Dean just asked to bring it forward with no opinion and provided a brief history from 2019 but did not believe the language in the covenant was strong enough to protect the town. There was much discussion but based on Clr Steeves memory he was worried about the public/private work on the roads and felt there was a conflict. Mr. Chenier believed it to be a lot of personal issues from the Town Council at the time including hazardous waste on the river.

8. Adjourn

Motion Ctz Mbr LaRochelle, Seconded by Ctz Mbr Bernardone, 3-0-0. 6:46 pm

Respectfully submitted,
David Adams