# Town of Ayer

# Office of Community & Economic Development

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# Board of Selectmen Monthly Report July 2015

Meetings attended: (2) July 4<sup>th</sup> Committee meetings/ MPO meeting/ BOS meeting/IDFA Meeting/ Meeting w/ new SBA Rep and new North Central Business reps

July 4<sup>th</sup>: Coordinated and executed all setup activities on Thursday 2cd. Full participation and oversight of all July 4<sup>th</sup> daytime and evening event activities from 8 am till 11:30 pm on holiday. Led cleanup crew on field July 5<sup>th</sup> 8 am till 12 pm

Great Announcement: the Town learned that it will be awarded its second \$900,000 CDBG grant in the past five years – tremendous news for Economic and Community Development offices

Current business activities taking place throughout Town

**Rotary Area**: Met with Northeast Real Estate broker to discuss available property in the Maxant building. Building continues to remain a lease opportunity rather than offering all the property as one entity. Discussed with Mark Fermanian, of Gervais Ford, about the availability of using their current unused lot for possible Rail Trail Commuter parking when the project begins

**Downtown Area**: Main Street plant and banner program is continues. Additional plant hangers are attached to a number of new poles erected by the DPW.

Meetings with Mr. DiCicco about the two available spaces. One is earmarked for a Gaming Store with available lunch the other for a new Taco Restaurant.

Nearing completion of the work for a new restaurant directory banner to be located at the end of the Rail Trail access driveway, visible from both the Rail Trail and downtown sidewalk area.

#### West Main:

Currently in conversations with a possible new tenant for the former Empire City Asian Food Restaurant. Possible woman owner also doing an Asian restaurant.

# Park Street/Fitchburg Rd:

Coordinated and facilitated the information and scheduling of a meeting between National Grid and all the building and store owners along Park Street. National Grid is in the process of upgrading their gas main along that street. Project to take about six weeks and currently project is moving very smoothly. No complaints or comment from businesses or public.

## Willow and Westford Rd:

Continue to be involved with admin support of Catania Spagna's expansion of their rail siding

### Additional Projects/Duties and Responsibilities:

- 1) Coordinating with Ayer Historic the Preservation Agreement for the Pleasant Street School (on-going)
- 2) Completed the final Green Communities report
- 3) Continual administrative involvement with the upcoming Comprehensive Plan 2015
- 4) Locating new restaurant directions banners at the entrance to the Rail Trail
- 5) Completed with TA help and support the new Downtown commuter safety / tourist project: a train enthusiast watching and photo area around the current brick sitting area building. Project has been sent and there has been a response from MBTA.
- 6) Coordinated a Shop & Save job fair that will take place in Town Hall on August 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>
- 7) Have begun initial steps in facilitating the upcoming CDBG grant including meetings with current Rehab Specialist and Environmental company as well as possible oversight consulting companies
- 8) Input and effort for both the Pleasant Street School Preservation agreement and the Central Fire Station project continue