

Ayer Office of Community & Economic Development

Monthly Report: September-October 2016

Respectfully submitted by Alan S. Manoian, Director of Community & Economic Development

1. **1934 Ayer Central Fire Station RFP:** The RFP for the Historic Central Fire Station Building was updated and reissued on 10/12/2016. As per Mass Central Register listing requirements for real estate disposition, the RFP will be out and open for 30 days. The new RFP submission deadline is 11/14/2016. Since the release of the 2nd RFP round on 10/12, the Ayer Office of Community & Economic Development has received one (1) Proposal Submission. Our office will be in close communications with the Mass Dept. Housing & Community Development during the next three weeks to stay in a competitive position to access up to \$750,000 (EDF) Grant Funding for the redevelopment of the Ayer Central Fire Station. The EDF Grant Program will be “transforming” in 2017, with potentially significantly less grant funds for statewide projects.
2. **Industrial Attraction, Retention & Partnership:** The Ayer Office of Community & Economic Development (AOCED) working in partnership with our Industrial/Manufacturing/Processing Sector has been designated as a member of the General Manager's/Human Resource Director's Monthly Roundtable Group. Initiated by our partners at Nasoya, Plant General Managers & Human Resource Directors meet at various industrial/manufacturing/processing plant locations in Ayer on a monthly schedule to advance great communication, coordination, cooperation, and attraction/retention efforts. AOCED attended our first meeting of the Industrial Roundtable in early October.
3. **Ayer Master Plan:** AOCED led Phase I of the Master Plan Process by formulating, outreaching, communicating, organizing, scheduling and conducting both the “Community Housing” and the “Economic/Business Development” Work Group Sessions in coordination with professional facilitators of our Master Plan consulting firm Community Opportunities Group. The Sessions provided a platform for Ayer-based knowledge exchange, information sharing, trends discussion, market changes, and personal perspectives and observations. Both Sessions went exceedingly well, and were populated with highly-informed, motivated and professional participants from the Ayer community. Upcoming Sessions for Nov. include “Transportation & Infrastructure”, “Natural & Cultural

Resources", "Town Services & Facilities", "Public Safety", etc. The next Ayer Master Plan Steering Committee Meeting is scheduled for 10/25; the next Community Housing Group Session is scheduled for 10/26; the next Economic Development Group Session is scheduled for the week of Nov. 14th.

4. **The Visioning & Re-Purposing of the USO Building & Depot Square**

(Opening Game): AOCED has formulated, scheduled and will conduct the Ayer USO Building & Depot Sq. Public Visioning & Design Charrette on Friday Nov. 4th 11:00AM-1:30PM and Saturday Nov. 5th 11:00AM-1:30PM. In order to provide the citizens of Ayer good opportunity to directly participate in this important civic process, we will conduct the Public Charrette on both Friday & Saturday. The Public Charrette will include a Friday big kick-off Visual Presentation at Ayer's Great Hall, then a Mobile Walking Workshop at the USO Building/Depot Sq. site, then back to the Great Hall for an Open Public Design Studio Session. Saturday's Session will report on the ideas, visions and product of Friday's Session; a 2nd Mobile Walking Workshop at the USO Building/Depot Sq. site; return to Ayer Great Hall for more refined Public Design Studio Work and Design Group presentations on their visions and concepts for USO Building re-purposing. This "Opening-Game" Public Charrette will be followed up by a "Mid-Game" Public Place-Making & Re-Purposing Financial Charrette in late November.

5. **Ayer Economic Development Webpage Redesign & Improvement:**

AOCED has engaged in two Economic Development Webpage review & redesign sessions with Ayer IT Dept. AOCED has begun the 'reconstruction' process, introducing a new and more interactive "Local Competitive-Data-Profile" platform for the Webpage. One of the most important new elements of the Webpage will be a GIS-based Site Selector Mapping Platform (developed in partnership with Montachusett Regional Planning Commission) that will more effectively connect with and showcase a range of development & redevelopment parcels/properties for professional Site Selector Professionals, Prospective Companies and Commercial Real Estate brokers.

6. **Partnership with Associated Industries of Massachusetts (AIM) & Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce (NVCC):**

AOCED engaged in a strategic meeting with officials from AIM & NVCC in order to more effectively coordinate the retention, expansion, attraction and overall favorable economic conditions for Ayer's large manufacturing/industrial/processing

enterprise. AOCED will be conducting a series of joint business visitations & information exchange sessions in partnership with AIM & NVCC to better understand current trends and critical resources/infrastructure needs for our Ayer companies. The product generated from these joint sessions will serve to channel high-quality content and resource platforms for our new & improved Eco Dev Webpage.