

# **Ayer Office of Community & Economic Development**

Monthly Report: March 2020

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

## **Historic (1934) Ayer Central Fire Station Redevelopment - CDBG Grant**

**Application Production & Scheduled Submission:** The AOCED completed and submitted a strong grant application on March 6<sup>th</sup> for a highly-competitive \$800,000 US Dept. of HUD CDBG Grant which would provide partial (public-sector) funding - for an estimated \$1.5 million affordable-housing redevelopment project in the long-vacant historic (1934) Ayer Central Fire Station Building in Downtown Ayer. With successful grant funding, the Project would deliver six (6) new deed-restricted low-to-moderate income (LMI) one-bedroom dwelling units to our community. Notification of successful grant awards will be announced by Mass DHCD & Gov. Baker in June/July 2020.

## **Ayer IDFA Commercial Loan Program/COVID Response & Relief:**

The Chairman of the Ayer IDFA contacted the Dir. Of AOCED in late March in response to the emerging COVID 19 Pandemic and then looming State of Emergency and associated economic collapse. The Chairman & Dir. of AOCED both recommend the granting of relief/forbearance of regular monthly loan payments by IDFA commercial borrowers for a period of 60-90 days. An Ayer IDFA Board meeting will be scheduled and conducted in April to take official vote on granting of relief/forbearance of monthly payments.

## **Ayer Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition/Action Plan Grant**

**Application & Production Process:** The AOCED has been actively engaged with our ADA Plan production partners at MRPC to begin preparing "Scope of Services" contractual agreement. AOCED & MRPC staff conducted a remote conference call meeting in mid-March to conduct a detailed review of the Project/Contractual Agreement/Deliverables and to set the project schedule. Unfortunately, the declared COVID19 state of emergency has impacted the agreed upon project schedule. AOCED & MRPC staff are exchanging information, content, plans, and are prepared when (authorized & safe) to launch the on-site municipal building inspections and documentation. The original deadline established by the Mass Office on Disabilities, of June 30<sup>th</sup>, to submit completed project/product is being extended-out as a result of the

COVID19 State of Emergency. The AOCED is in close contact with MOD, MRPC and all stakeholders involved in this important municipal project.

**AOCED COVID19 Response/PPE Donation Request:**

On March 24<sup>th</sup> the Office of Town Manager directed Dir. of AOCED to produce local business/corporate outreach List and Letter of Request for donations of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the Town of Ayer's Police Dept. & Fire Dept. List was compiled, Letter of PPE Request composed and submitted to Office of TM, and Dir. of AOCED in coordination with Chief of Ayer Fire Dept. produced and posted (on social media) a video making public request of donation of PPE for Ayer PD & FD.

**Production of the “Guide to Locating & Doing Business in Ayer”:**

In March the Dir. of AOCED began formulation, design & production work on the Comprehensive Guide to “Locating & Doing Business in the Town of Ayer, MA”. This is a program goal for the 2020-21 year – and it will be completed for review & comment by mid-May 2020.

**Ayer Housing Production Plan Project:**

The Community Development Program Manager in coordination with the Ayer Affordable Housing Committee, and production consultants from Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC) have completed and submitted the 1<sup>st</sup> draft of the new Ayer Housing Production Plan. The Plan is currently under the “review & comment period” by Dir. of AOCED and stakeholders to complete 2<sup>nd</sup> draft, and to finalize for submission to State agencies for approval.