

Ayer Office of Community & Economic Development

Monthly Report: July 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: Notification of successful grant awards will be hopefully announced by Mass DHCD & Gov. Baker in September 2020. (COVID19 State of Emergency Delay of Grant Award Announcements).

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

Application & Production Process: On June 16th the AOCED was notified that the Town of Ayer has been successfully awarded an official extension, to June 21, 2021, to produce the updated Ayer ADA Plan. The Town of Ayer has contracted with the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission to conduct the Ayer Municipal Building & Facilities ADA (current conditions) Inspections for production of the "Self-Assessment Plan". On July 20th MRPC staff inspected the Ayer Fire Station Building & Ayer Police Station Building; and on July 30th inspections were conducted and completed at the Ayer Council on Aging & the Ayer Public Works Building. Inspections in August will include the Ayer Public Library, Ayer Town Hall and more. Once inspections are complete the process will move to the "Transition Plan" production phase.

FY19 CDBG-CV (COVID19 Impact) Grant Application:

The Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the FY19 CDBG-CV (COVID19 Local Impact), issued by the Mass Dept. of Housing & Community Development, was posted on May 15th. The AOCED immediately engaged to pursue a substantial grant application for the Town of Ayer. The AOCED is pleased to report that on July 10th we were notified that the Town of Ayer was successfully awarded a CDBG-CV grant in the amount of \$309,510 for Ayer's Local Public Social Service Providers & Ayer's Microbusinesses adversely impacted by the COVID19 Stated of Emergency. Award amounts as follows: \$45,000 for Nashoba Associated Boards of Health; \$32,400 for Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry; \$17,010 for Ayer Public Library; \$12,600 for Stone Soup Kitchen Ministries; and \$4,500 for Ayer Council on Aging. In addition, \$180,000 (of the \$309,510 total) will fund the Ayer Microbusiness Grant Program – providing grants up to \$10,000 for Ayer businesses incurring losses due to COVID19. The grant funds will be distributed

following Mass DHCD Grant Admin. Training Sessions & release/execution of Contract documents.

\$4 Million MassWorks Grant – West Main Street Corridor: Since early June the Town of Ayer, Devens Enterprise Commission & MassDevelopment Project/Grant Team have been meeting and formulating a strong \$3.5 million MassWorks Grant application submission; known as the “West Main Street Public Infrastructure & Economic Development Project”. Through the efforts/leadership of the Office of the Ayer Town Manager a Pre-Application Guidance/Review Meeting with MassWorks Program Directors/Administrators & State Sen. Jamie Eldridge. was scheduled and conducted on July 22nd including our entire Team. This pre-application meeting proved to be exceptionally beneficial to our application formulation process and will certainly better our chances for a successful award this year. The Dir. of AOCED is composing the grant Project Description and producing/submitting the complete application of behalf of the entire Team. The \$3.5 Million MassWorks Grant Application submission is due by August 28th; we will submit a strong application.

CDBG FY 18 Grant: The CDBG FY 18 Grant is in its final quarter. The Town's Housing Rehabilitation Program under this grant is currently working on the final 2 housing units. We anticipate completion by September 30th and a close out of the Grant by that date as well.

Ayer Affordable Housing Committee (AAHC): The Ayer Affordable Housing Committee had a meeting on July 10th. The Committee voted to support a warrant for the Fall Town Meeting creating an Ayer Housing Trust. A general discussion was had on the proposed bylaws of the Ayer Housing Trust and on the possibility of going to the CPC to request initial funding for this Trust.

FY19 CDBG-CV Grant Application: The Office of Community and Economic Development received news of our successful application for a FY19 CDBG-CV (Covid-19) microenterprise business and social service grant in the amount of \$309,510. This grant supports 6 different programs within our community, one microenterprise business grant program, two food security programs supporting our two food pantries. An expansion of the Council on Aging Meals on Wheels program, a grant to support the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health for COVID related programs and equipment. The final program supports the Library's technology and internet access program.

Ayer Downtown Flower Program

With the help of our dedicated senior work off employees the Town's Downtown Flower Program is going strong.

Office of Community and Economic Development

The OCED has been interfacing with the Office of the Town Planner on the proposed development on 65 Fitchburg Road. Currently the interested party on this property is a nonprofit affordable housing developer. Should this developer move forward on the property they are proposing a friendly 40B. This developer looks to be an experienced nonprofit affordable housing developer and this project has the potential of increasing the number of affordable units in Town. Possible putting the Town over their 10% SHI State requirement.