

Ayer Office of Community & Economic Development

Monthly Report: October 2020

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

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

Application & Production Process: The AOCED's outreach efforts in seeking prospective members of a new Town of Ayer ADA Citizen's Advisory Group have been successful. We are pleased that a number of local residents, some who are ADA Compliance professionals/consultants, have responded to our outreach and are interested in serving the Ayer Community on the new ADA Advisory Board; this is most encouraging. The AOCED will be follow-up with the interested citizens and taking next steps in structuring committee and engaging in a formal Ayer Select Board review/interview/appointing process. The Committee will review the Self-Evaluation Plan and play a guiding role in the production of the Ayer ADA Transition Plan.

Depot Square Park Design/Development:

The AOCED organized, scheduled and conducted a Depot Square Park Municipal Team Design Meeting on 11/7/20 so as to review, coordinate and come to consensus with regard to a number of public space design elements for the new Downtown Park including exterior design specifications for the new Comfort (Restroom) Station, the new Waiting Shelter Structure, the Historic Depot Square Fountain, new Bike Racks, etc.

Park Street Municipal Team Site Walk Meeting & MA Housing Choice Capital Grant Pursuit:

The Dir. of AOCED organized, scheduled and conducted a "Park Street New Sidewalk Infrastructure/Wayfinding Signage & New Bike Rack Site Walk Meeting" on 11/9/20 with municipal departments including Office of Town Manager, Town Planner, Dept. of Public Works, Police Dept. & Fire Dept. This unified project site walk meeting marks the launch the "Park Street Form-Based Code Public Space Design Project" – the AOCED is now engaged in formulating, producing, submitting a Massachusetts Housing Choice Capital Grant in the amount of approx. \$250,000 – with a submission deadline of December 11, 2020. The proposed grant would fund professional conceptual design, engineering, cost estimate for the proposed Park Street improvement project.

New Bike Rack Installation Approach & Placement Design Finalization Municipal Team Meeting:

The Dir. of AOCED organized, scheduled and conducted the “New Bike Rack Installation Approach & Placement Design Finalization Municipal Team Meeting” on 11/30/20 – in order to arrive at consensus on the design type/s and final placement location/s of the new bike racks for the Downtown Ayer Commuter Parking Deck/Rail Trail Parking Location & the new Depot Square Park.

\$3.1 Million MassWorks Grant – West Main Street Corridor: The AOCED and our MassWorks Grant Team partners at Devens Enterprise Commission & MassDevelopment continue to await the delayed announcement of the 2020 MassWorks Grant awardees; proposed for November 2020. Project background: Dir. of AOCED completed and submitted a \$3.1 million MassWorks Grant Application on August 27th.

CDBG FY 18 Grant

The CDBG FY 18 Grant ended September 30th. The final quarterly report and drawn down have been filed and closeout paperwork was filed in October. The Town had a very successful FY18 CDBG grant cycle, which included the Prospect and Oak Street Infrastructure Project and the Housing Rehabilitation Program. This grant had a total budget of \$803,000, which included \$750,000 of CDBG grant monies and \$53,000 of program income.

FY19 CDBG-CV Grant

The CDBG-CV Grant program is up and running, guideline have been written, approved, and implemented. Dir. AOCED is overseeing the Microenterprise Grant Program. Mico-Enterprise grant applications were made available the last two weeks of October. Six (6) initial applications were requested with (4) four applications being returned for review. One application was quickly approved, and Dir. AOCED is working with the remainder of these applicants and he continues microbusiness grant outreach in our business community. The Social Service programs are being administered by the Community Development Program Manager, Alicia Hersey. The department was able to implement the guidelines for these five programs in October. The Stone Soup Ministries was able to quickly turn around these grant resources and increase their distribution of food, and the Library has been busy working out the kinks on their internet access program.

Ayer Affordable Housing Committee (AAHC)

The Ayer Affordable Housing Committee (AAHC) successfully passed the Warrant for the creation of an Ayer Housing Trust at the Ayer Fall Town Meeting. In addition, the Town approved CPC funding of \$30,000 for this newly created Trust.