

Ayer Office of Community & Economic Development Monthly Report: June 2021

Respectfully submitted by Alan S. Manolian, Dir. AOCED

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

Application & Production Process: On June 4th, the AOCED scheduled and conducted a municipal inter-department input session for the DRAFT ADA Self-Evaluation & Transition Plan. AOCED composed and distributed municipal ADA survey documents to all municipal departments. AOCED also composed and distributed an ADA General Public survey document. AOCED conducted a presentation of the DRAFT Town of Ayer ADA plan at the June 15th Ayer Select Board Meeting. The final Town of Ayer ADA Self-Evaluation & Transition Plan was submitted to the Massachusetts Office on Disabilities (MOD) on June 28th 2021.

Park Street (FBC/Traditional Downtown Street) Transformation Project/Housing

Choice Capital Grant: On June 4th, the AOCED & Ayer DPW received three (3) proposals from highly-qualified engineering firms in response to the issued municipal RFP. On June 16th, the Project RFP Review Team selected the proposal submitted by the firm of Green International Affiliates headquartered in Westford, MA. The Park Street Design Project kick-off meeting between municipal departments & Green International Affiliates will take place in early July.

\$3.1 Million MassWorks Grant – West Main Street Corridor: During the month of May/June Ayer DPW worked closely with the Ayer-based civil engineering firm of GPR in order to complete and deliver the 60% design/engineering plans and specifications for the West Main Street public infrastructure improvement project. The 60% project design is required to take the next steps in finalizing project permitting and issuance of RFPs to qualified construction firms. The MassWorks West Main Street Project Group will schedule and conduct a project deployment planning meeting in mid-July.

Ayer Affordable Housing Committee (AAHC)

The Ayer Affordable Housing Committee (AAHC) monthly meeting was held on June 30th. The newly appointed Ayer Affordable Housing Trust participated in the AAHC June meeting as an introduction and kickoff for the Ayer Housing Trust. Mr. James Stephen was appointed to the open committee member position on AAHC by the Select Board at their June 15th meeting. Members of the Ayer Affordable Housing Trust participated in MHP's Virtual Housing Institute on June 3rd, 10th, and the 17th.

FY19 CDBG-CV Grant

FY19-CDBG-CV social service grant programs completed their fourth quarter; the grant runs through December 2021. The Ayer Library Internet Access program currently has internet hot spots and laptops available for loan. The Stone Soup Kitchen Food Pantry has used the balance of their funds. Loaves and Fishes has started using their grant funds to offset costs of food to stock the pantry. The other two social service programs, COA Meals Delivery Program and Nashoba Associated Boards of Health have not yet started using their grant funds. The Micro Enterprise Business Grant program is in the process of closeout. A total of seven (7) local small businesses received grants through this program. For these owners, this program was essential in helping them through the difficult period of COVID19 pandemic shut down.