

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

### **Monthly Report: March 2023**

*Respectfully submitted by Alan S. Manolian, Dir. AOCED*

**The “Ayer+Devens 2033” 2-Day Symposium:** The “Ayer+Devens 2033” 2-Day Symposium was successfully conducted on Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup> & Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> 2023. The “Ayer+Devens 2033” Symposium - The 2-Day Symposium serves to catalyze a collaborative civic effort to learn, better-understand, envision, plan, develop and drive an inclusive public-process whereby the Town of Ayer will determine if it is in the best interest of its current residents/future generations to reclaim the “historic Ayer land” within the Devens Enterprise Zone by the year of 2033.

**Ayer’s Neighborhood Pocket Forests Project:** The East Main Street/RR Bridge Green Slope has been selected as the Neighborhood Pocket Forest “Pilot Project” for this coming Spring 2023, and the green space at the Historic Sandy Pond Schoolhouse as the selected site for the 2023-24 Pocket Forest Project. Dir. of AOCED & Pocket Forest Team organized, scheduled and conducted an open public/neighborhood design forum for the East Main St./RR Bridge Pilot Pocket Forest Project for Spring 2023 on Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at St. Andrew’s Church Hall.

**The Restoration of Ayer’s (1943) Historic Howitzer:** The Howitzer is now at Certified Welding & Fabrication of Shirley at Lancaster Rd. for full-restoration. The restoration process is progressing well. The restored Historic (1943) Ayer Howitzer will be brought back to its legacy location at Ayer Town Hall with a fine new circular base pad, and with the original (1983) Staff Sgt. Leon A. Cote plaque & granite monument brought back together. The Historic (1943) Ayer Howitzer will be unveiled and re-dedicated for Patriots Day, April 17, 2023.

### **Ayer Affordable Housing Trust (AAHT)**

The Ayer Affordable Housing Trust met on March 29<sup>th</sup> on zoom. The Trust reviewed and approved the FY23 Rental Assistance program applicants. The Affordable Housing Trust, with CPC funds, has provided 10 grants to families in rental assistance for the coming year. All the families fall under 50% AMI (Area Median Income); with several of them falling below 30% AMI.

### **Ayer Affordable Housing Committee**

The Ayer Affordable Housing Committee’s monthly meeting was canceled for lack of quorum. The Smaller Homes/Smaller Lot Working Group met on March 2nd. As reported last month this group will be made up of members from the Planning Board and Housing Committee along with Town Officials from the Planning, Building and Community Development Departments. They are reviewing the Town’s zoning with the goal of encouraging more affordable housing.

**Proposed Ayer Commons – 40B Comprehensive Permit Project**

The applicant is in the process of acquiring the property, after which they will take their application to DHCD.

**Ayer Fuel and Housing Assistance Emergency Fund**

The Ayer Fuel and Housing Assistance board reviewed and granted two applications for fuel assistance in March.

**CDBG****Ayer Emergency Housing Rehabilitation Program – Ayer Program Income**

The Emergency Housing Rehabilitation program currently has \$5000 of Program Income in its budget. Overall Program Income currently has a total budget of \$39,675.