

Ayer Office of Community & Economic Development

Monthly Report: May 2023

Respectfully submitted by Alan S. Manoian, Dir. AOCED

Formation of the “Ayer+Devens 2033 Study & Report Committee”: The Dir. of AOCED compose, produced and delivered the Ayer+Devens 2033 Study & Report Committee “Request for Expressions of Interest” Overview Sheet & Application Form to the Office of the Town Manager and Ayer Select Board for review and comment at the May 2nd Ayer Select Board Meeting. The Dir. of AOCED attended the May 2nd Ayer SB Meeting for review, recommendation, direction and approval of committee application framework moving forward. Applications to serve on the Ayer+Devens 2033 Study & Report Committee are due by Friday, June 16th.

Devens Jurisdictional Framework Committee (DJFC): On May 10th the Dir. AOCED attended a special sub-committee meeting with fellow representatives from Harvard, Shirley and Devens Community of the (DJFC) at Shirley Town Hall to draft/review/finalize a Request for Expressions of Interest (REI) for professional consulting services for upcoming (DJFC) study work. The REI was finalized for presentation to full DJFC and release.

Ayer Disabilities Commission: The Dir. of AOCED, who also serves as a member and Secretary of the Ayer Disabilities Commission (ADC), scheduled and participated in the May 18th meeting of the ADC. The ADC is currently engaged in reviewing the Ayer municipal Personnel Manual – Reasonable Accommodation Policy, reviewing & commenting on the comprehensive re-design/re-construction of Main Street & Columbia Street in Downtown Ayer, and ADA-features of the new Playground at Pirone Park.

Ayer Center for Active Living/\$300,000 Schematic Design & Cost Estimation Grant Application: The Dir. of AOCED identified and recommended the application for a \$300,000 MA Executive Office of Housing & Livable Communities (EOHLC) grant to fund the schematic design, preliminary engineering & construction cost estimation of a proposed Ayer Center for Active Living (Senior Center) at a possible location at Pirone Park. The Dir. of AOCED scheduled and conducted a grant application team meeting on May 17th at Ayer Town Hall. The Dir. of AOCED will prepare, package and submit the grant application by June 2, 2023 deadline.

Ayer/Devens FY 23/24 Main Street Neighborhood Pocket Forest Project Grant

Administration: During the month of May, the Dir. of AOCED was fully-engaged in the administration of project grant close-out duties. The contractual close-out of the \$282,600 MA MVP Action Grant & Project is due for June 30, 2023.

Montachusett Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)/ Downtown Ayer Main Street Re-Design/Construction Project Funding: The Dir. of AOCED attended the May 17th (MPO) Meeting in order to again (as in April) strongly advocate for an escalation of the (TEC) Funding Score for the Downtown Ayer Project – and to accelerate the approval and award of project funding for 2026. The Dir. of AOCED is pleased to report that as of the May 17th MPO Meeting the “Downtown Ayer Main Street Project” has been re-scored and is now (the highest scoring project) in the region!

Ayer Affordable Housing Trust (AAHT)

The Ayer Affordable Housing Trust did not meet in May due to lack of quorum. Grantees receiving rental assistance through the Trust Rental Assistance Program have been selected and they have received assistance for their first or second month depending on their approval date.

Ayer Affordable Housing Committee

The Ayer Affordable Housing Committee’s monthly meeting was canceled due to lack of quorum. The Smaller Homes/Smaller Lot Working Group meeting was held on May 30th. The group started the process of reviewing the Town’s zoning as it relates to housing within our community.

Proposed Ayer Commons – 40B Comprehensive Permit Project

There have been no new developments regarding the 40B project for 65 Fitchburg Road. The applicant, NOAH, currently is completing their application with the state’s Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, formally DHCD, which is their subsidizing agent.

Ayer Fuel and Housing Assistance Emergency Fund

The Ayer Fuel and Housing Assistance board received one application in May.

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.