

Ayer Office of Community & Economic Development

Monthly Report: July 2023

Respectfully submitted by Alan S. Manolian, Dir. AOCED

Formation of the “Ayer+Devens 2033 Study & Report Committee”: The Dir. of AOCED is pleased to report that Ayer+Devens 2033 Study & Report Committee was established during the month of July. At the July 18th Ayer Select Board Meeting all (8) eight Committee applicants were officially interviewed and appointed to the Committee. The first meeting of the Ayer+Devens 2033 Committee will be scheduled and conducted in early August.

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 July 20th meeting of the ADC. The ADC continues engaging 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. It is proposed to review and finalize the Ayer municipal “Reasonable Accommodation Policy”.

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

Administration: During the month of July, the Dir. of AOCED was fully-engaged in the final 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. The Dir. of AOCED is pleased to report that the MVP Action Grant for the Ayer/Devens Pocket Forest Project was successfully closed-out by the June 30th contractual deadline. In July, final municipal project funding reimbursement submissions were made to the State.

3rd Annual Newton Street Folk & Arts Festival: During the month of July, the Dir. of AOCED was fully engaged in planning, fundraising, organizing, scheduling and advancing all activities involved with conducting the 3rd Annual Newton Street Folk & Arts Festival in Downtown Ayer. This very popular local downtown festival has become a great new tradition in our community.

\$3.1 million MassWorks West Main Street Public Infrastructure Improvement

Project Grant Close-out Administration: During the month of July, the Dir. of AOCED spent many administrative hours preparing and finalizing the financial & programmatic close-out documentation/verification for the landmark \$3.1 million MassWorks Grant for West Main Street (future West Ayer Village). Final submission to the State grant administrator were completed by July 31st.

Ayer Affordable Housing Trust (AAHT): The Ayer Affordable Housing Trust held their meeting on July 26th, 2023. The chair noted that currently an empty seat on the Board, it was agreed that the Board would start doing outreach to fill the seat. The Board

agreed that going forward annual independent audits would take place. The Board voted on a request for \$200,000 from CPC at the Fall special Town meeting. \$72,000 for rental assistance, \$125,000 for future housing support and/or acquisition. The final \$3,000 for administration.

Ayer Affordable Housing Committee: The Ayer Affordable Housing Committee's monthly meeting was held on July 21st, 2023. The committee decided on October 19th for their Housing Public Forum, naming it "Future of Housing in Ayer".

Proposed Ayer Commons – 40B Comprehensive Permit Project: The applicant, NOAH, continues their application review with the state's Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, formally DHCD.

Ayer Fuel and Housing Assistance Emergency Fund: The Ayer Fuel and Housing Assistance board received no applications in July. Since the Emergency Fund inception of January 2023, the fund has helped a total of five families in need.

CDBG

Ayer Emergency Housing Rehabilitation Program – Ayer Program Income: The Emergency Housing Rehabilitation program currently has \$5,000 of Program Income in its budget. The overall Program Income account's current balance is \$48,778.91.