

November 13, 1984

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Selectmen met with Dave Edkins to talk over a possible Federal Grant to help aid in making Town buildings accessible to the handicapped.

Present: John Jones, chairman, Katherine Ring, Rachel Reinstein and Richard Pleasants.

Dave Edkins explained that a grant must benefit the moderate and low income families. 51% of the money must go for this purpose. Selectmen asked about sidewalks. If it benefits low income or handicapped it might be one area to receive a grant for. With two Workshop homes and the elderly housing, sidewalks might very well be an area to look into.

Mr. Pleasants would like to see some parking in the rear of the library as well as ramps to aid the handicapped getting into the library.

Selectmen are concerned about access to the Town Buildings and bathroom facilities. Ramps as well as a chair lift are acceptable uses for the grant.

Selectmen asked about the schools in Antrim. If the Selectmen can work with the Schools and they are interested, this would also be acceptable.

Towns will be granted up to \$350,000 in a year to make improvements to aid the handicapped and or the low & moderate income families. One application should be made out through the Town, since it is the Towns that are to receive the grant, this application can include improvements to the School, Library and the Town Buildings.

Mr. Edkins believes that showing there is money from other ~~areas~~ *sources* to be used to make the improvements, although not necessary, it looks good on the application. Mr. Pleasants spoke of ~~possible~~ *difficulty of* money from the State Library Association to help with the improvements at the Town Library.

Mr. Edkins pointed out that most grants have been for housing rehabilitation. Other grants are for economic development. This one is hard to come by since to apply you must have a business ready to come in. Grants can be used to open roads for a new business and extending the sewer or water systems to encourage business. The third project which the grants are used for is the one the Town is interested in at this time. Public facility projects.

Although the Town does not have to budget for part of the project, if they have a warrant item, the vote must show the approval of the warrant.

Before a grant can be awarded, the Town must have a public hearing to inform the public of the grant request and the use to which it is to be put if it is received.

Mr. Edkins will contact the Monadnock Workshop and see what information he can gain to help with an application for the Town. Selectmen will have to acquire cost estimates before applying. Cost of final plans can come out of the grant money. How many feet of sidewalk are needed of repair to aid the handicapped? Will sidewalks need repaired or new ones put in? This information will also be needed.

A new requirement to obtain a grant, is to have a Housing ^{and} Community Development Plan. This can be in the form of a "wish we had" list to cover several years.

If the Town is granted funds, someone from CDGB would help the first year of funding to do the paper-work. Once funds are granted, work must be done and invoices sent to cover the cost. Request must be made to receive that portion of the grant. The money must then be put in an interest-free account and be drawn out of the account to pay the invoice. No money is given to the Town before the request from the Town to pay the invoice for completed work.

Once the Town shows a good record of use for the money, it is easier to acquire another grant in future years to cover cost of the "wish we had" projects.

It would not look good if too much money were requested and not used, nor would underestimating the needed amount. This would be an important part of the application.