

Susan Marcinek

AH-A

From: Elizabeth Stocker [elizabeth.stocker@newtown-ct.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2009 11:55 AM
To: joe.borst@newtown-ct.gov
Cc: susan.marcinek@newtown-ct.gov; 'Bob Rau'; Bob Tait; Bob Geckle; 'Fred Hurley'
Subject: Grant Report for June 2009

Dear Joe,

The following is my monthly progress update on active and pending grants.

Newtown Tech Park - (\$500,000 STEAP) Fifty percent of the funds (\$250,000) have been received from the state to date. The \$500,000 grant period runs through June 30, 2009. A letter requesting a one year extension to 2010 was sent out to Ned Moore at DECD on May 12, 2009 and a revised budget for signature was received today (I will bring it over). On May 8th, 2009 you sent a letter to Secretary R. Genuario of the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) requesting that \$250,000 of the grant be transferred to the Fairfield Hills Campus redevelopment project to be applied toward the utility installation, tunnel removal and streetscape elements such as paving, landscaping and lighting associated with the parking lot installation.

Bob Rau and I went to Hartford on 4/28/09 to meet with representatives of the Dept. of Agriculture (DOA). In response to our meeting they provided no indication for support of the new development plan that utilizes the northern area (37 acres) for development. The revised layout will not require a subdivision application, it precludes a through road option and will not use any of the southern 34.44 acres of open space/agricultural land that was legislated to permit the through road option. The DOA requested that we send them additional maps and written correspondence to explain the proposal and this was done on 4/29/09. No word has been received back.

The new concept plan was presented to the BOS on 4/6/09. A conversation with the DECD staff concerning the new layout was held immediately following the 4/6/09 meeting however their position is to defer any action on release of funds until the Dept. of Agriculture (DOA) provides their input on the new layout.

There is approximately \$30,000 left in the STEAP grant account at this time. This balance plus some of the EDC operating budget will be encumbered to permit us to move forward with the engineering services necessary for an Inland Wetland Commission and an application to the Army Corp. of Engineers. A change order for this work will be processed once I work out the details with the engineer.

The Municipal Development Plan (MDP) continues to be on hold until the EDC provides direction concerning the plan they wish to pursue.

Nunnawauk Meadows - (Small Cities CDBG) The work on the alarm system is complete. The work on the kitchens is proceeding. I attended a DECD sponsored Small Cities Application Workshop on 2/19/09. Our current grant (2006) must be expended by the May deadline in order to be eligible to apply for a new project. A memorandum concerning the Stimulus

money was received on 4/3/09. I followed up with DECD (V. Hunter) and learned that the \$3.6 Million is earmarked for the neighborhood stabilization communities. Small Cities communities must meet the spending threshold set by DECD in order to be eligible for the additional Stimulus funds. This requirement puts us out of the game.

In March/April 2009 I updated several Town policies pertaining to Civil Rights, ADA, Affirmative Action and Fair Housing and delivered them to your office for execution and distribution to the human resources office where the new policies should have been updated, posted and distributed to all existing employees on an annual basis.

Fairfield Hills

Parking & Streetscape - A STEAP grant was approved in April 2008 for \$300,000. The BOS (07/07/08) authorized the First Selectman to enter into an agreement with the State and execute the documents. The executed documents are in place and work has commenced. The Semi-annual report (June-Dec. 2008) was filed in January. I sent in a draw down for the funds in February and I am working with DPW and Finance on the project. I am working with Rep. Chris Lyddy on following up with the receipt of the grant funds.

Asbestos Removal (EPA \$200,000) - The Board of Selectmen passed a resolution (10/20/08) authorizing the First Selectman to accept the grant. A Cooperative Agreement was signed and sent in to EPA. The Stratford building has been selected for the clean up funds. EPA determined that we must solicit three quotes for the Licensed Environmental Professional (LEP) services. A scope of work for a LEP was prepared and issued for quotes. The quotes were reviewed by committee of three and on a recommendation was sent to the purchasing authority to procure the professional services of Russell Bartley. Once the LEP contract is in place we can move forward with the Community Relations Plan and hold the public hearings to involve the public. A \$40,000 local match is required by EPA. Some of our share will come from the necessary LEP services and in kind services. The selected LEP needs to be on board for the completion of the Community Relations Plan (CRP). Such plan will be presented to the Fairfield Hills Authority (FHA) before we proceed with the public hearings.

Infrastructure (tunnel removals) (\$125,000 STEAP) A resolution to accept the grant was passed by the Board of Selectmen on 1/20/09. The Assistance Agreement has been executed and was received on April 16th, 2009. I am preparing the needed information to draw down the funds. Rep. Lyddy was informed of this grant.

Mothballing Project - A letter was written on 3/20/08 by First Selectman Borst to Secretary Genuario (OPM) indicating a change in scope to the project to include some site work and potential building upgrades and mothball the buildings. Rep. Julia Wasserman was to take the letter to the Secretary personally once the budget meetings are cooled. I spoke to Julia Wasserman about this briefly on May 20, 2008. We mentioned this application to Peter Simons of DECD on 7/1/08 and he acknowledged that he is aware of it. I do not expect that this award will be granted because it was filed as an Urban Act grant and the state issued a policy on August 26, 2008 that municipalities cannot simultaneously qualify for funds under both the STEAP and Urban Act grant programs.

Infrastructure (EDA) - Our project continues to rank #3 in the Naugatuck Valley Corridor Economic Development Strategy Board (NVC CEDS). I made a presentation to the board on May 7th 2009 to provide them with an update on our project. They will be ranking projects in June 2009. Our current request is for \$1.5 million infrastructure grant to permit us to underground the utilities. A planning meeting between Bogen/Geckle/Hurley/Stocker & Borst was held on 2/9/09 and a follow up discussion was held on 4/3/09 to discuss campus work in need of additional funding. A meeting with Congressman Christopher Murphy was held on April 11, 2008 and his office continues to be interested in supporting the project. Staff from Congressman Murphy, Senator Dodd and Senator Lieberman's offices visited on May 29, 2008. A follow up with our consultant Arthur Bogen and local team was performed on July 9th. A follow up to the 4/3/09 staff meeting will be on 4/17/09.

Kevin's Community Center (KCC) - (\$500,000 Neighborhood Facilities Program, Ct Dept. of Social Services Grant for construction at Newtown Hall Building on Fairfield Hills Campus) I am in receipt of the May 20, 2009 letter from Dr. Taweh and the email from Lisa Schwartz dated 5/26/09 requesting that their request to use a duplex at Fairfield Hills be heard by the Board of Selectmen at your June 1st meeting. I had a conversation with Mary Plaskonka at the CT Dept. of Social Services who noted that the grant will require that the Town will have to guarantee that the clinic will be supported for a period of ten years.

Stimulus Funding - Arthur Bogen, Down to Earth Consulting sent in an email to you on May 1, 2009 informing you that the Fairfield Hills project was one of those listed on the Valley Council of Governments application for clean up grant funding that went out to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The request is for a \$200,000 clean up grant that may be applied to Litchfield House cleanup. The application response date is early July.

Animal Control Facility - Project was not approved in the 2008 round for STEAP grants, OPM will keep the application for consideration in the current round. CT DPW has the deed ready to go however we are waiting on a sign off from CT DEP before we process the transfer of land. A request for the CT DEP sign off was sent to CT DPW on A \$500 administration fee is due before the deed will be released to the Town.

Batchelder HUD - no change in status. James Maloney, CT Institute for Communities, Inc. is administering the grant on behalf of the Town of Newtown. The Town of Newtown continues to have an outstanding SCPRIF loan in the amount of \$45,000 which is accruing interest at 3% per year. As of February 2008 we owed approximately \$84,860 on the loan. A request to forgive the loan was sent to DECD by First Selectman Borst on 4/22/08. No official word has been given yet however I had a conversation with Ned Moore at DECD on Nov. 25th 2008 and learned that he supports the request but it is unlikely to be acted upon due to the state's budget crisis.

Rau & Stocker met with Pat Carusso of Associated Refuse on May 18th 2009 to discuss his interest in the property.

Farmer's Market Promotion Program (FMPP) - A grant application for the FMPP was filed with the US Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) on April 27, 2009 for purposes of promoting the Newtown (Sandy Hook) Farmer's Markets. The grant amount requested is for \$45,350 plus in kind services (grant management) in the amount of \$20,000. The grant will provide funds for advertising, signage and training to increase market awareness and to improve site readiness (wood chips and a potty). EDC member Wes Thompson was instrumental in pulling the information together on a short notice and coordinated with Mary Fellows and Mike Porco who operate the Sandy Hook markets. Awards will be announced in late September 2009.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Stocker, AICP

Director of Economic and Community Development

28 Trades Lane

Newtown, CT 06470

Phone: 203-270-9415

Fax: 203-270-9423

email: elizabeth.stocker@newtown-ct.gov <<mailto:elizabeth.stocker@newtown-ct.gov>>

home page: www.newtown-ct.gov <<http://www.newtown-ct.gov>>

EDC home page: www.newtown.org <<http://www.newtown.org>>

FHA home page: www.FairfieldHills.org