



Town of Bellingham

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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February 4, 2019

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Spencer with Cindy McNulty and Michael Connor in attendance.

7:00 PM PUBLIC HEARING - To discuss and get public input regarding the Town's proposed application to the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) for funding from its FY 2019 CDF Program and provide an update report on the progress of the 2017 grant.

Chairman Spencer called the Public Hearing to order at 7:00 p.m. and recognized Mr. Peter Sanborn, President of Community Opportunities Group, Inc., the grant consultant for the Town of Bellingham.

Mr. Sanborn distributed handouts to the Selectmen and the audience including: 1) information about the MCDBG Grant Program 2) a summary of past grants received by the Town of Bellingham 3) an update on the current 2017 grant and proposed activities suggested for a potential 2019 MCDBG application.

Mr. Sanborn provided a brief explanation of MCDBG Program and changes that had been made to the program since 2017, including the use of percentage of Low- and Moderate-Income populations (LMI Score) as a method to calculate need of applicant towns, using a ten point system in which Bellingham Scores a 7 and the elimination of bonus points for regional applications. The current grant which funds a regional housing rehabilitation program with the Town of Hopedale has shown a lack of demand from Hopedale residents. Only one Hopedale project has been completed and one more is in process during the entire grant – which began in October of 2017. Due to the limited demand from Hopedale, the elimination of bonus points for regional applications, as well as Hopedale's low LMI score of 3 (which averaged in with Bellingham's score reduces the overall score of the application), Mr. Sanborn recommended that the Town of Bellingham request funding on its own this year.

Two eligible activities were proposed.

1. The first activity proposed would be to continue the Bellingham Housing Rehabilitation Program town-wide in Bellingham.
2. The second proposed activity is an Architectural Barrier Removal (ABR) project to install and upgrade sidewalk ramps in North Bellingham to ADA standards. The Bellingham DPW has identified 34 intersections in need of ramps, and an additional 12 in need of upgrades for a total of 46 to be installed or improved. Mr. Sanborn explained that the Town was assessing and prioritizing these intersections. In the event that costs can not all be covered by the FY2019 grant, if received, the remainder could be part of a future MCDBG grant application.

COG is recommending that the Town submit a Bellingham-only application for FY 2019 CDF funding to support the two proposed activities and related administrative costs in an amount of up to \$800,000, which is the maximum allowable grant for a single community application. At this point Chairman Spencer asked if any members of the audience had questions. There being none, Selectman Connor asked if there were any costs to the Town to administer the grant and Denis Fraine answered that the grant paid the administrative costs of the program, except that the Town provides office space in Old Town Hall for the program staff.

Selectman McNulty asked how residents would go about applying for a home repair loan and Paula Stuart of COG responded that applications were available at Town Hall, the Senior Center, on the Town's website and in the Community Development Office at old Town Hall. Applications are opened in the order received and the applicants submit needed eligibility documentation (income, property ownership, status of municipal taxes, etc.). Once determined eligible, the program sends a Rehabilitation Specialist to complete an inspection of the home to determine the work the homeowner is requesting along with any other code deficiencies identified. Work Specifications are prepared, reviewed with and approved by the homeowner and the job goes out to bid to a group of contractors who are registered with the program. All contractors meet at the home to go over the work to be completed and have a week to submit sealed bids. The project is awarded to the low bidder unless the homeowner wishes to select another contractor and pay the difference between the low bid and that of the selected contractor.

There being no additional questions, on a Connor/McNulty motion, the Board unanimously voted to close the public hearing.

On a Connor/McNulty combined motion the Board unanimously voted in favor:

1. To Approve the submission of a FY 2019 MCDBG CDF Application that requests funding for up to \$800,000 for two activities:
 - a. Continuation of the Bellingham Housing Rehabilitation Program
 - b. Architectural Barrier Removal Project (ABR) to install ADA Compliant Sidewalk Ramps at designated intersections in Town.
2. To designate Denis Fraine as Environmental Certifying Officer; and
3. To Authorize the Chairman of the Board and the Town Administrator to sign all necessary documents related to the submission of the grant application up to \$800,000.

Mr. Fraine asked that a motion be taken to approve the Host Community Agreement between Frozen4 and the Town.

On a Connor/McNulty motion, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Host Community Agreement between the Town and Frozen4, LLC and to authorize the Chairman of the Board to execute the Agreement.

Mr. Fraine stated that he would like the residents to know there is a Public Hearing on Tuesday February 26th at 7:00PM in the Arcand Meeting room regarding the proposed South Main Street Reconstruction TIP Project and this would be an opportunity to have views and comments be heard.

Mr. Connor asked Mr. Fraine if he could comment and clarify what the yellow signs posted near the Fafard Project were for. Mr. Fraine stated these signs which are posted near a proposed targeted area are a requirement that had never been imposed prior to now alerting residents of the upcoming Public Hearing.

Mr. Connor brought up a concern he has in the Town of Bellingham. He stated that he does not like how convenient stores in our Town sell Marijuana paraphernalia given the fact that the Town doesn't sell marijuana. His feeling is that they don't belong here. He recently read an article in the Boston Globe that states a town has the discretion to ban sales of these types of things.

Mr. Fraine suggested we invite the Board of Health to come to a Selectmen's meeting for further discussion.

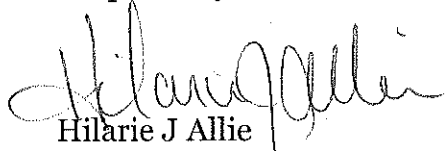
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Mr. Spencer stated he received an application from David Wyatt for an unfilled position on the Town Common Trustees. David attends meetings on a regular basis and has the support of the current board members.

On a Connor/McNulty motion, the Board unanimously voted to appoint David Wyatt to the Town Common Trustees for a 3 year term.

On a McNulty/Connor motion, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Hilarie J Allie
Administrative Assistant