

MINUTES

Joint meeting of the Montachusett Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee (MRCEDS) Montachusett Economic Development District (MEDD), and Montachusett Brownfields Group (MBG)

June 9th, 2016

1:30 P.M.

MRPC Conference Room

1427R Water Street

Fitchburg, MA 01420

Attendees Present

Springer, Charlie
Michael Gerry
Duffy, Phil
Steve Wallace
Eric Smith
Beauregard, Trevor
Jim Bellina
Ryan McNutt
Noreen Piazza

Affiliation

TRC
Ncmwib
Community and Economic Director, Town of Clinton
Town of Westminster
Athol
Director of Community Development and Planning, City of Gardner
GGCC
Town Administrator, Town of Lancaster
Planning Director, Town of Lancaster

MRPC Staff Present

Glenn, Eaton, Executive Director; John Hume, Planning and Development Director; Noam Goldstein, Regional Planner; Shubee Kalra, Regional Planner; Chantell Fleck, Principal Planner; Brian Keating, Community Development Manager.

Overview of recent activities involving MRPC's \$400,000 Brownfields Assessment Grant

Charlie Springer explained that, there are currently four active sites: 1) CSX Rail Corridor between Fitchburg and Leominster with 4.55 miles is on-going; 2) Gene's Towing/Auto-Service in Clinton, MA, which is a petroleum site and MASS DEP and EPA have approved the project which is on-going 3) Old Manufacturing building in Seventh Street Leominster for a Phase II assessment, has been delayed because the City has not demolished the building yet; 4) Old Gardner CDC building in 246 to 248 Central Street has been approved for hazardous money, and the site assessment is near completion. 5) A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment for -Barrett Land, Mass Ave (Map 23/Parcel 35), Harvard, MA was completed and recorded in ACRES.

Review ESA requests (site nomination form)

No additional site nomination forms have been received.

Community Development Block Grant Applications and MRPC Assistance

Brian Keating, MRPC Community Development Manager, explained the community development block grant basics. This included background about the CDBG Program and entitlement and non-entitlement communities.

B. Keating went on to explain how a project is eligible and that it must meet the CDBG National Objective and one of six eligible activities. Traditional projects include Planning, Affordable Housing, Economic Development, Infrastructure, Community Facilities, and Public Social Services. B. Keating explained Community Wide Needs Scores and Regional Applications. A single community may receive no more than \$1 Million and a CDF 2 community that receives an award is precluded from applying for a grant the following year. Grant Management responsibilities were presented and the CDBG Application Process was detailed. B. Keating then explained some Keys to Success including maximizing community participation, have experienced staff or consultant prepare the application, and schedule public hearings and forums early in the grant preparation phase.

Administrative Matters

J. Hume stated that there were no administrative matters to discuss.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.