

WATERBURY
LONG TERM COMMUNITY RECOVERY
STEERING COMMITTEE

Minutes for July 19, 2012

Attendees: Skip Flanders, Rebecca Ellis, Natalie Howell, Margaret Luce, Mark Frier, Monica Callan, Sam Andersen (CVEDC), Alison Friedkin (CVCLT), Lisa Scagliotti (HMCC), Sen. Bob Hartwell, Bill Shepeluk (Municipal Manager) and Steve Lotspeich (Municipal Planner).

The meeting convened at 5:40 PM.

VISTA Update. Eva Loomis of Rhode Island has accepted an offer to serve as a VISTA member in Waterbury, starting September 4. The municipality will have office space for Ms. Loomis in the Steele Block Building, next to the village police. Ms. Loomis will need housing starting in mid-September. VISTA members are paid by SerVermont, and their salary is \$250/week, so it is hoped that we can find Ms. Loomis an affordable housing arrangement.

CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) Update. Natalie Howell, Steve Lotspeich, Megan Rivera and Rebecca Ellis met with ACCD's Carl Bohlen on 6/27/12. Natalie has developed a spreadsheet that summarizes the CDGB programs in ACCD's draft master plan, and how Waterbury's projects might fit within these programs. Applications for the CDBG grants will available in early September.

Meetings with BGS. Local officials have been meeting every 2 or 3 weeks with BGS Commissioner Obuchowski to discuss disposition of Ladd Hall, Stanley Hall, Wasson Hall, Father Logue's cottage, 121 & 123 South Main Street, and 43 Randall Street. Also under discussion is a community-wide, distributed heat system. Discussions are ongoing.

State Office Complex. Sen. Bob Hartwell, Chair of the Senate Institutions Committee, provided an update on the State Office Complex. Senator Hartwell said FEMA needs to complete worksheets on each building in the State Office Complex and the VSH to establish condition of buildings, ie, "destroyed" vs "damaged". Nothing can be done until the worksheets are completed probably sometime in October. That means demolition can't start on buildings the state has identified to tear down; and it appears to slow down the transfer of ownership process. This will also delay the start of construction of the new state office building which, of course, has an impact on businesses. There is also concern that FEMA will not provide the needed funds originally anticipated for construction of the office building and replacement of the State Hospital planned for a site in Berlin. FEMA has said there was a range of funds available, but there is no final figure yet. Sen. Hartwell remains optimistic that the State Office Building will be built in Waterbury.

EDA Grant for (1) LTCR Economic Disaster Recovery Director and (2) CVCAC Business Case Manager. EDA has requested additional information regarding the application, which is a positive sign. The municipality hopes to know by late August if the grant application is approved. Sam Anderson reported that ACCD applied for an EDA grant that would help reimburse landlords for rent they should have received but for flood damage, which in turn could be used to pay for repairs. Both residential and commercial landlords would be eligible. The residential landlords will probably apply through home ownership centers. The commercial landlords need a statewide administrator. It is estimated that about 40 commercial properties will be eligible statewide.

USDA Grant for (1) an economic development officer and (2) phase-two master planning with Tripp Muldrow. Waterbury's application to the Vermont USDA office was forwarded to the USDA National Office. Only two Vermont applications were forwarded on, so this is excellent news. Revitalizing Waterbury is seeking funding for phase-one survey and image branding with Tripp Muldrow. The municipality hopes to know by late August if the grant application is approved.

LTCR Steering Committee Guidelines. The Select Board, Trustees and Library Commissioners have adopted guidelines for the LTCR Steering Committee, and have appointed Rebecca Ellis, Natalie Howell and Margaret Luce to serve on the steering committee. The Guidelines authorize the Boards to appoint three members of the public to be appointed as well. Several LTCR project champions and other interested members of the public have expressed an interest in serving on the committee. The next joint meeting of the Select Board, Trustees and Library Commissioners will be Wednesday, August 15 at 6 PM. The LTCR Steering Committee will likely start meeting on Wednesdays at 4 PM starting in mid-August.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Rebecca Ellis

Approved on August 15, 2012