

BOROUGH OF RED HILL

Revitalization Task Force Meeting

Wednesday, September 9, 2009

6:30 pm

Doris Decker called the meeting of the Revitalization Task Force Meeting Committee to order on the above date at 6:30 pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dennis Albertson, Luanne Stauffer, Paul Decker, Tim Smith, Larry Morton, Gerald Mullaney

OTHERS PRESENT: Darlene Stoudt, Secretary; Mark Hosterman, Solicitor

VISITORS: Joseph Hoffman - Grants Specialist, BIA
Brian O'Leary - Montgomery County Planning

ACTION ON MINUTES: A motion to approve the Open Space Minutes of March 11, 2009 was made by David Schiffgens and seconded by Dennis Albertson. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian O'Leary Addressed The Committee On The Following Issues:

History of the Community:

- 40 million Dollars has been awarded for revitalization project since 2000.

Eligibility:

Red Hill Borough Is Eligible For the Program::

- Income, population change, employment change, real estate base, welfare recipients, value of new construction, children under 5 in poverty, and female headed families.

Program Description:

- Historic façade improvement program
- Creation of public plazas
- Streetscape improvements
- Parking lots
- Installation of street lights
- Assistance with attracting businesses
- Construction of affordable housing
- Cleanup of contaminated sites
- Planting of street trees.

Brian O'Leary stated that there are two steps in the program:

1. Creating a Community Revitalization Plan - to qualify for any grant implementation money, communities must have a revitalization plan that examines four core issues;
 - Economic development
 - Public safety
 - Housing
 - Infrastructure and transportation
 -

Red Hill can apply up to \$25,000 to prepare a plan by planning consultants with economic development expertise.

2. Applying for Implementation Grants.
 - Red Hill can apply for up \$433,920 in grants each year with no guarantee that this amount will be granted.
 - Red Hill is part of a regional planning effort; the borough must provide a 10% cash match for any grants.

Joseph E. Hoffman, Grants Manager, BIA

Joe Hoffman addressed the committee on the significant needs and opportunities within Red Hill at the present time:

3. Main Street
 - Curb and Sidewalk between 4th to 6th Street followed by 3rd to 7th street
4. Community Park needs:
 - Additional tree planning, parking areas, playground equipment and one additional multi-purpose ball field.
5. Upper Perkiomen Library needs:
 - Construction of an accessible elevator.
 - Replacement of hard to operate current doors with automatic doors and ramps on the front of the building.
 - Exterior parking is insufficient.

Additional Needs by Agency

- Fire
- Ambulance
- Water And Sewer Authorities
- Trash Collection And Recycling
- Routine Street Repair And Resurfacing
- Economic Development
- Regional Comprehensive

Grant Opportunities

6. Two types of grant opportunities exist:
 - Grants that re-occur on an annual basis.
 - DEP
 - DCNR
 - CDBG
 - AFG
 - Keystone Commonwealth Fund Library Program
 - Pennvest
 - DCED Capital Fund Grants, Both State And Federal Brownfield's Grants
 - Penn Dot Safe Routes To School And Smart Transportation Grants

Grants that are either part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

- Federal Economic Stimulus Program or part of the State Economic Stimulus program - deadline September 30th.
- Tree grants are available thru the Montgomery County Tree Vitalize Program.
- Grants are available for alternative, clean renewable energy (solar, wind, geothermal and bio fuels)

Doris Decker commented that the entire Borough of Red Hill was eligible for revitalization funds.

Doris Decker will email to the committee MCPC consultant list for the development of the plan.

Luann Stauffer made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Larry Morton seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Stoudt, Secretary

