

Maine Cumberland County

CUMBERLAND COUNTY – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

MUNICIPAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES: March 12, 2018

MEETING LOCATION: Falmouth Town Hall

Attendees: Dick Brobst- Chair (North Yarmouth), Deborah Cabana (Gray), David Galbraith (Gorham), Travis Kennedy (Cumberland County), Tom Gruber (Cumberland), Brian Dudley (Long Island), Marty Szydlowski (Brunswick Housing), Scott LaFlamme (Yarmouth), Tom Bartell (Windham), Theo Holtwijk (Falmouth), Donna Larson (Freeport), Ronda Jones (Portland), Sandra Warren (South Portland), Brenda Day (Bridgton), Jen Derice (Standish), Greg Sirpis (Standish), Art Howe (Harspswell)

Staff: Maeve Pistrang, Cumberland County Community Development Director, Sandra Warren South Portland /Cumberland County Community Development Coordinator.

1. Welcome & Introductions: 13 members were present and a quorum was reached. The meeting began at 2:05PM.
2. Tour of Falmouth Food Pantry, recipient of 2014 CDBG Funds: Dorothy Blanchette, Volunteer Director for the Falmouth Food Pantry spoke to the committee regarding the benefits of the CDBG funds to the pantry, and how their project made providing food assistance to individuals easier and more accessible. Tom Gruber mentioned how phenomenal Dotty's program is and how the Town of Cumberland used Dotti's success to model his own program for the Town of Cumberland.

Maeve noted that if anyone was interested in hosting an MOC meeting and highlighting a project in their community, to please contact her

3. Nomination / Election of 2019 Committee Chair. The committee nominated Dick Brost for Chair. Tom Gruber motioned, and Travis Kennedy Seconded. The group unanimously approved the appointment. Tom Gruber was nominated for Vice Chair and Travis Kennedy Seconded that motion. The group unanimously approved the appointment.
4. Ronda Jones from Portland spoke about the use of HOME Consortium funds in the county for housing rehab. She also spoke about the \$1.8 million Lead grant the HOME Consortium received from HUD to provide financial assistance to local landlords and property owners to conduct lead abatement. The program anticipated using these funds to assist 88 units over the course of a three-year period. To date they have approved over 55 applications since June of

2017, less than a year into the program. With more applications to still process they are well beyond their original goals of just 88 units. They will try to assist as many units as possible and plan on applying for another lead grant in the future. The need for lead abatement is highest, in Portland and Westbrook, which both have the highest densities of rental units in the county. Maeve spoke about the HOME Consortium Affordable housing development, and CHDO funding requirements.

5. The proposed HOME budget for MOC approval at the March 20, 2018 meeting would be \$100,000 for housing rehabilitation/Home ownership, \$166,350 for Affordable Home Development and \$53,203 for CHDO. Total request \$319,553.
6. CDBG Recommendations: Dick Brobst, chair of the review team, outlined the team's process for making its recommendations. The group particularly discussed projects that were recommended for reduced or no funding. Theo asked the review committee if applicants were meeting the match requirements. The review committee as a whole agreed that the applicants were meeting or exceeding the match requirements. Theo also wanted to know information about why broadband applied for a planning grant and construction funds at the same time. Travis Kennedy explained that the planning grant was separate from the construction and would be used to establish an entity for the continued operations of the utility after construction was complete. The group discussed that the Westbrook Library Windows ranked the highest and yet did not receive full funding. Dick Brobst spoke to this as he was one of the reviewers that felt it should not receive full funds, because only Westbrook residents were able to use the library. Theo also noted that this year Public Services requests were below the cap amount. Maeve indicated this was in part because Family Crisis Services was unable to spend their entire FY17/18 grant and as a result did not apply for funds for this year.
7. The Group discussed Contingency Provisions for the funding once the final CDBG allocation is known:
 - a. In the event of an increase in funding, add funding back into Westbrook Library and then Windham Depot Street.
 - b. In the event of a decrease in funding, subtract funding from the lowest scored applications in ascending order.

Tom Gruber also suggested partially funding the Harpswell Home Generator project if possible. Donna Larson noted that Freeport may be returning some weatherization funds to the program that could go toward that project.

The group agreed to discuss these contingencies at the next meeting.

8. The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00PM.