

BOARD OF SELECTMAN UPDATE

June 16, 2014

PUTNAM REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY (PRA)

Community Development Block Grant – 2012 – Housing Rehabilitation

See attached report

Municipal Brownfield Pilot Program- Cargill Falls Mill

The Hazardous Materials Abatement Plan and Bid Package have been submitted to the CT Dept of Economic and Community Development for review. Tim Sullivan, CT DECD Director of Waterfront, Brownfield and Transit-Oriented Development was invited to visit Putnam, and the Putnam ECD Director gave him the tour. Mr. Sullivan was accompanied by John Simone, the Executive Director of the CT Main Street Program. Mr. Sullivan was extremely impressed with the Cargill Falls Mill Project, and sent a message the day after the tour "I just wanted to say thanks for taking the time to get me up to speed on the Cargill Falls Mill project yesterday. This is clearly a transformative brownfield/preservation project and we are eager to help however we can. Please don't hesitate to call or email if I can ever be helpful to you going forward."
- Tim

Meetings are being convened to discuss the CFM Traffic Study (BETA Group) with the ECD Director, Town Planner, CFM Developer, Public Works Director and the Special Services District Local Traffic Authority (Police Chief Hayes)

Former Putnam Foundry

A conference call with the Director, CME Engineering consultants and members of the Palo Family Trust was convened to discuss access on the property and areas that have been identified for hazardous materials removal. Certain buildings are not to be accessed by anyone other than the environmental consultants. All terms were agreed upon. Documents are being drafted requesting that the Town of Putnam be reimbursed for any expenses incurred to secure the area and for any prior testing upon sale of the property.

Metal Mast Property

The property owner has contracted with a local contractor to clean up the property including, but not limited to, tree and vegetation removal, demolition, and general grounds clean up. The contractor is to complete the work by November, 2014.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

88 Main St. Façade Improvement Project

Awaiting any further requirements from the CT Department of Economic and Community Development for Final Reporting purposes.

Industrial Park Updates

- New England Plasma – 6,000 s/f expansion to be completed by June 1, 2014. Eastern CT Enterprise Corridor (ECEC) application has been submitted to the CT DECD.
- Foster Corporation – Closing for Lot 19-1 took place on May 27, 2014
- Renchel Tool – To occupy by May 31, 2014

Putnam Plan of Conservation and Development

The June 9th meeting of the POCD team focused on Economic and Community Development. Topic of discussion included the Responsibilities, Accomplishments and Goals as defined by Economic Development, Community Development and the Putnam Redevelopment Agency.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

The Director will be meeting with other Economic Development colleagues to work on the CEDS Five Year Update for the Northeastern CT Economic Partnership. The Plan will include input from the communities within the NECT Planning Region. The document will include the following items according to the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA): Planning Process; Background Data and Current Trends; Area Assessment of Strengths and Weaknesses (S.W.O.T. analysis); Vision Statement; Action Plan; and Evaluation. The Committee will meet monthly at the NECCOG offices.

Ongoing Projects/Venues/Announcements

Community Garden: Additional funding in the amount of \$2,000 was awarded by the Northeast District Dept of Health through the Community Transformation Grant. As a

HealthQuest partner, this funding will be used for Benches, table and installation at the Community Garden.

Putnam Arts Council: Ideas are exchanged continuing the momentum to celebrate the Arts as economic development in Putnam. The Council plans and implements the Art Attacks for all First Friday Events.

Saturday Farmer's Market: The official 2014 season opening was held on June 7th. The Financial Director was onsite to insure the accuracy and accountability of the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program. Approximately 200 customers attended opening day of the Saturday market.

Wholesome Wave: We have received an award of \$6,000 to supplement the Women's, Infants and Children's (WIC) nutritional program. This is the first time we have not had to actually apply and will not have to provide a cash match.

First Fridays: Extremely successful June 6th event based on the theme of 'Dance'. The evening kicked off with the official Ribbon Cutting for The Complex for Performing Arts. Innovative, interpretive, classical ballet, African Drum dance and other cultural dance filled the streets along with artisan vendors and children's activities. The First Friday July event will take place on the '2nd' Friday of the month – July 11th (July 4th is the First Friday) and we will be celebrating Theater as the theme.

Putnam Beautification: The Director made a request to remove all overgrown and unsightly vegetation from the islands in Union Square. The shrubs were removed on June 10th after a "Call Before You Dig" call was made. Generations Healthcare has offered to plants in one of the island areas as a celebration of their 30th Anniversary. A recommendation is being made to officially design an "Adopt A Garden" Beautification Program.

Grant Opportunities and Writing

- Downtown Historic Designation
- "Placemaking" Initiative from the Eastern CT Association of Realtors (\$2,000)