

BOARD OF SELECTMAN UPDATE

September 15, 2014

PUTNAM REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY (PRA)

Community Development Block Grant –2013 – Housing Rehabilitation

Municipal Brownfield Pilot Program- Cargill Falls Mill

The mandatory site walk for Hazardous Material Abatement and Demolition was held on August 28th with 15 contractors in attendance. All interested parties reviewed the abatement, remediation and demolition plans with the Director, environmental consultant and the consulting LEP. The bid due date for Hazardous Materials and Demolition have been extended one week out to September 19th with Environmental Consultants quotes due by August 12th for environmental oversight following State and Federal guidelines. As reported, the Historic Cargill Falls Mill has now been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Former Putnam Foundry

Bid documents are being drafted by CME Associated for Hazardous Materials Abatement and Demolition. Draft of the specs will be submitted to the Redevelopment Agency by Monday, September 15th once wage rates are clarified from the State of CT.

Housing Forum

The September PRA meeting will be dedicated to discussions related to housing focusing on the Special Services District. Topics will include: multi-family housing; code violations for health and safety concerns; housing redevelopment projects; blight; and absentee property owners. Invited guests include realtors, property owners, contractors, and related Board and Commission chairmen who may directly or indirectly have significant input. Several meetings in the future will be dedicated to conversations related to this topic.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Industrial Park Updates

- We are planning an Open House with Renchel Tool. Date to be determined.
- Impact Plastics is planning a 6,000 sq ft expansion at their existing location.
- Potential sale of 63 Industrial Park Rd for a truck repair facility passed by the Zoning Board of Appeals

- Grounding Breaking for Foster Corp. on Lot 19 is scheduled for September 17, at 9:00 am.
- The Incubator Building (39 Ridge Road) has been approved for sale by the CT Dept of Housing for \$450,000. The funds must be returned to the State at this time, and we will petition for grant funding through the Small Cities Block Grant program at a later date.

CT Main Street Center Task Force

The Director has been invited to take part in the newly formed Task Force to assist staff in determining future growth, program offerings, services, charges and the development of a new program. The Task Force will be comprised of 12 people across the State.

Ongoing Projects/Venues/Announcements

Wholesome Wave/Farmer's Market: Double Value Coupons will be coming to a close at the end of the Farmers Market Season ending a three year partnership with the Program funding. The 2014 season will be closing on Saturday, October 25th.

Putnam Business Association Beautification Cmte : Met with Public Works Director to discuss the impacts of upcoming projects. Areas of discussion included the Art Obelisk placement, sidewalk sweeping, shoveling, trash receptacles, placement of benches, streetscape trees, etc.

Ribbon Cutting: The NECT Chamber is hosting the Ribbon Cutting for Soleil and Suns Deli on the Avenue on September 18th, 11:00am. All are welcome to attend.

Plan of Conservation and Development: The Director facilitated a S.W.O.T. analysis exercise at the September meeting. Outcome data will be published in the near future.

CT DECD/Office of the Arts Tour: The Director hosted a tour of Putnam on August 12th for the CT Office of the Arts staff and the Director of the CT State Historic Preservation Office. We were scheduled for 1.5 hours with the dignitaries and they spent over 4 hours with us. Excellent feedback.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs): Mandated by the federal Economic Development Administration (EDA), we will be working on the CEDs process as a regional in-depth analysis of the economic development concerns and opportunities that identify strengths and weaknesses in the regional makeup of human and economic assets, and problems and opportunities posed by external and internal forces affecting the regional economy.

UCONN: An opportunity was presented by the Program Director of UCONN's Democracy and Political Engagement and Special Projects/Office of Community Outreach to assist with PRA/ECD projects. Students are willing to assist with several one day opportunities to fulfill programming obligations as well as reaching out to faculty staff for internship type benefits.

Wayfinding Informational Kiosk: The kiosk has been ordered to provide a touch screen Digital Directory. All businesses will be listed by category with visitors being able to locate businesses, coupons and websites. Another advantage is the integration with the Putnam Wayfinding recommendations.

IEDC Conference: Scheduled for October

Putnam Business Association

First Fridays