

BOARD OF SELECTMAN UPDATE

April 20, 2015

PUTNAM REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY (PRA)

2015 Community Development Block Grant

The Redevelopment Agency has submitted an Application to the CT Department of Housing. This application will request \$400,000 for the purpose of Housing Rehabilitation. A Financial Management System has been designed and approved by the CT Dept of Housing and the Town's auditing firm of Mahoney Sabol for any future CDBG programs.

2012 Community Development Block Grant Update

The CT DOH and CT DECD audit has been completed and closed out.

Municipal Brownfield Pilot Program- Cargill Falls Mill

The bid has been published for the abatement and disposal of certain hazardous building materials and the demolition of five (5) buildings. The mandatory site walk took place on April 9th with all bids due on April 23rd at 12:00 p.m. Bid openings will take place immediately after.

CT Trust for Historic Preservation 'Making Places' Grant

Request for Proposal documents are being drafted for the Belding-Corticelli Mill conditions study (inventory), conditions planning, pro-forma planning, community outreach and National Register of Historic Places application.

Historic Brownfield Revitalization Program

The Putnam Redevelopment Agency has received a \$300,000 grant from the CT DECD. The projects Scope of Work will include: Soils and Groundwater assessment; hazardous Building Material Survey; Structural Evaluation; and Reuse Planning. A RFP is being drafted to connect this project with the CT Trust for Historic Preservation 'Making Places' Grant award.

Former Putnam Foundry

Contract documents have been drafted and signed by the CT DEEP and the Town of Putnam to extend the budget period until December 31, 2015. We are awaiting the Attorney General and Commissioner's signatures. The Contractor is waiting for the Notice to Proceed once we hear that the contract has been signed off. I anticipate work to begin by the end of April.

Incubator Building Update – 48 Industrial Park Rd.

Lighting at the address needs to be repaired and updated as the building was constructed nearly 20 yrs ago. Written quotes were received and reviewed and it was decided to look at an energy audit of the facility. A Net Projected Cost would be \$7,945.13 with an Annual Electricity Savings of \$2,351.15 with a Return-On-Investment of 29.5% over 3.4 yrs. Project will be funded through the PRA Incubator Maintenance account.

New Website

A concerted effort is being taken to design new content for the Town's Website due on April 30th.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Economic Development Trust Fund

As approved by the ECD Commission and the Board of Selectmen, the request now goes to the Board of Finance for their approval. The request then goes to the Annual Town Meeting.

Quinebaug Regional Technology Park.

Members of the BOS have requested a Marketing Plan and that is being drafted based on the Marketing concepts presented to the partnering towns. Conversations are taking place with the Board of Selectmen regarding the equity of hiring a Commercial Realty Firm and marketing the lots by the Director. Received an email request for a Lot 3 in the Park for a

Industrial Park Updates

- Foster Corporation Expansion - The project is on schedule for a late May/early June completion.
- Former Staples - 5 year lease signed by Crabtree and Evelyn for Gift Basket product line and storage.
- Negotiations regarding the sale of Lot 9

PBA Beautification Committee

Putnam Clean-up Day is being held on May 9th, 8:30 a.m. at Rotary Park with a cook-out to be held following at 11:30. The Public Works Dept will be assisting with the removal of the overgrown shrubs near the RR line for further Beautification projects. Peddlin' for Putnam Bicycle Project to beautify Putnam with decorated bikes in front of stores is now launched. Project is supported with the sale of decorative pins and bikes to decorate.

HealthQuest Grant Application

As a HealthQuest partner, the ECD office supporting an application for \$200,000 to the Heart Truth Campaign through the Northeast District Dept of Health. As a community wide initiative all partners will be hosting an event to focus on a health initiative for the NECT community. The initiative from our office will be to bring Mark Fenton, the nation's most recognized walking for fitness expert, to host a workshop for NECT town leaders on the design of walkable communities.

Town's New Website Design - Developing Content for Economic and Community Development

CT Main Street Center Preservation of Place Grant

Request for Proposal is being drafted for the Preservation of Place Design Standards and Guidelines.

StoryWalk/QVCC Partnership

The QVCC Illustration Class is working on a project to illustrate Nursery Rhymes for the StoryWalk on the Putnam River Trail. The Director spoke to the class answering questions regarding the project and taking the opportunity to acquaint the students about economic development and the Town of Putnam.

Grant Opportunities

Main Street tree replacement:

CT Urban Forest Council- ongoing round to be reviewed in January of each year.

America the Beautiful – announcement of grant round in early October.

Marketing Digital Kiosk

The digital media Kiosk has been activated and set up in the Art Alley next to 85 Main. This program was brought to the attention of the BOS in 2014 and has now been implemented. The Putnam Visitor Kiosk and Community Network Media is programmed and maintained by GET/GO Interactive Media and a portion of the advertising proceeds will go to the Town of Putnam. The kiosk is still in the process of programming and updating with QR Codes being added as advertisers are added and the 'loyalty' program being added and coupons downloaded.

Ongoing Projects/Venues/Announcements

- 'Leaders Are Readers' Program – Invited to read stories to Ms. Sinclair's 1st Grade Class
- Coordinating the Adopt A Garden Program
- First Fridays
- Farmer's Market Clay Mural Project/ Sawmill Pottery