



STAFF REPORT

AGENDA ITEM #: 18-39
COUNCIL MTG OF: April 3, 2018
FROM: David Caron, Town Administrator
OFFERED BY: Administration
PREPARED BY: Administration
SUBJECT: To Seek Authorization to apply for a Community Development Planning Grant for Abbott Court.

PURPOSE

To obtain a grant to assist the Town with identifying potential redevelopment opportunities for Abbott Court.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

The Council is encouraged to schedule a public hearing on April 17 and subsequently vote to authorize the submission of a grant application.

BACKGROUND

On Friday, March 30, 2018 the Town hosted a meeting of the statewide NH Economic Development Association; during that meeting our Economic Development Coordinator interacted with staff from the Community Development Finance Authority, who alerted the Town to upcoming deadline (April 30) for Planning Grant applications through CDFA. The discussion, which included the Town Administrator, Economic Development Coordinator, Town Planner and EDAC member Teri Pastori, led to a consensus that staff should request Council authorization to seek a planning grant to further investigate the use of Abbott Court.

DISCUSSION

In order to receive grant funding, the proposed use must benefit primarily low to moderate income persons. Bev Donovan has been investigating various opportunities for Abbott Court, and recommends that the Town focus its study on a culinary-based training program.

The Town is currently reviewing one other proposal for combination retail/housing; staff suggests that the Town has an obligation to thoroughly research all development opportunities for this property.

FISCAL IMPACT

No town funds are being requested for this grant – up to \$12,000 may be provided by CDFA.

RECOMMENDED ACTION BY COUNCIL

The Town Charter requires 48 hours notice to post agenda items; the Charter further provides that the Council may declare an emergency which allows items not on the agenda to be acted upon. Whereas the Charter is silent on late submission items, it is recommended that the Council adopt the Consent Agenda to schedule the requisite public hearing on this matter on April 17, and to declare an EMERGENCY OF CONVENIENCE to address any concerns regarding notice of less than 48 hours.

RECOMMENDED MOTIONS:

Adopt the Consent Agenda for April 3, and subsequently adopt Resolution #2018-016 after the April 17 public hearing.

PUBLIC

**TOWN OF DERRY
CDBG Application**

Public Hearing, April 17, 2018

Public Hearing on Proposed Abbott Court CDBG Planning Study

Community Development Block Grant funds are available to municipalities through the NH Community Development Finance Authority. Up to \$500,000 annually is available on a competitive basis for public facility and housing projects, up to \$500,000 for economic development projects and up to \$350,000 for emergency activities. \$12,000 is available per planning study. All CDBG projects must primarily benefit low and moderate income persons. The purpose of these hearings is:

This is a proposed application to the Community Development Finance Authority for up to \$12,000 in Community Development Block Grant Planning Study funds. The study will determine the cost and potential funding for the development of town-owned properties known as Abbott Court in Derry. A potential use for the property may include culinary industry based training for primarily low and moderate income persons.

This project conforms with Derry's Housing and Community Development Plan's Goals of: Broaden the economic base. Seek and encourage growth in business, manufacturing, research and development fields. Improve access to local jobs. Improve downtown and other business districts.

Public Hearing on Residential Antidisplacement and Relocation Assistance Plan

This plan outlines measures, under the Uniform Relocation Act, required for CDBG projects that involve any displacement or relocation of persons (or businesses), if the Town were to undertake a CDBG project which involved displacement or relocation they would follow this plan. The plan outlines the measures they would take to find comparable, suitable housing for persons (or businesses) displaced or relocated.

This project involves no displacement or relocation, but the plan must be adopted with each CDBG application.