

**STAFF REPORT**

AGENDA ITEM #: 20-126  
COUNCIL MTG OF: December 15, 2020  
FROM: Dave Caron, Town Administrator  
OFFERED BY: Economic Development Department  
PREPARED BY: Beverly Donovan, Economic Development Director  
Elizabeth Robidoux, Planning & Economic Development Assistant  
SUBJECT: Derry Commerce Corridor Façade Improvement Program

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**PURPOSE:**

To continue the Downtown Commerce Corridor Façade Improvement Program.

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS**

Pursuant to the Council's direction, this information summarizes information on the extension of the existing DCC Façade Improvement Program; whereas existing appropriations are to be used, no public hearing is required.

**BACKGROUND**

In September of 2017, the Town Council recapitalized the Derry Revolving Loan Fund and directed \$100,000 be earmarked for downtown revitalization. Following the direction of Town Council, Economic Development staff created application and design criteria for a façade improvement program which provided a 50:50 matching grant up to \$5,000 per storefront for improvements in the designated district. In 2019, Town Council resolved to expand the program to include the entire Derry Commerce Corridor (Manchester Road, Crystal Ave, parts of Birch Street, East and West Broadway) and provided an additional appropriation of \$250,000. Of that amount, \$100,000 was earmarked for 50:50 grants up to \$5,000 for improvements <\$200,000; 50:50 grants up to \$5,000 for blight removal (if the property was on the Property Maintenance Committee's list) and \$100,00 for \$20,00 grants for façade improvement work costing in excess of \$200,000.

**DISCUSSION**

The 2019 program was extended into 2020. With the advent of COVID-19, businesses went into survival mode and any planned expansions were put on hold. There were nine applications received and approved for that funding cycle. Of the \$250,00 set aside for the program, \$11,993 was provided in grants and an additional \$32,500 is encumbered by approved but not yet completed projects. To extend the program, the Council is asked to approve new application and construction deadlines; it is staff's understanding that the Council has requested a status update should an additional \$100,000 be encumbered.

#### FISCAL IMPACT

The fund balance of the Derry Commerce Corridor TIF previously committed by the Council would be used to fund the program.

#### RECOMMENDED ACTION BY COUNCIL

Act upon Resolution #2020-060.

#### RECOMMENDED MOTION

Please see Resolution #2020-060.



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