Town of Orange Grants Committee – Meeting Minutes 10/12/23 4:30 pm

In attendance: Steve Simpson, Lee Cattaneo, Angela Eastman, Sheila Stone, Lee Youngman

Absent: Emily Ruff

1. Vice Chair Steve Simpson called the meeting to order at 4:34 pm.
2. Agenda revisions

On a motion made by Angela and seconded by Sheila, the following agenda revisions were added:

* Add discussion re: Mini Grant (Angela)
* Update on Transportation Alternative Study (Lee Cattaneo)
* Approve minutes of 9/7/23 meeting (Steve)

1. Discuss Current Grants

* Angela informed the committee she filed the MERP for $45,000 to address both buildings in the town hall complex.
* There is an opportunity to apply for a $4000 grant with $0.00 match from the town for planning. Ona motion made by Lee Youngman and seconded by Lee Cattaneo, the committee will recommend the Select Board apply for this grant to hire a consultant for grant administration of the MERP.
* Local Bypass Grant – this is $$ we have already received from the state for Tucker Rd use as detour during the Rt 110 bridge reconstruction this summer and fall. It can be used for any purpose on Tucker Rd.
* Park and Ride Grant – no movement
* Municipal Highway Grant – Angela has not heard anything from the State
* CDS Award – Angela applied for enough funds to purchase 8 radios for emergencies. She applied in March and has not heard anything.
* HSIP Grant – to purchase 10 advanced warning signs and for tree cutting on Trickle Brook Curve on Reservoir Rd. Total application $35,000. Angela has not heard back from state.
* She is also administering 2 FEMA grants from the July storms, and has applied for the FY 23 GIA and Better Roads grants.

1. Potential grants to follow up on:

* Outdoor recreation Economy Grants – application is open until Dec 15. The committee assigned reading this grant to Lee Youngman, who will report back with a recommendation at the next meeting.
* Grant for installation of an EV Charging station – no one else in Orange County has applied for it. Angela will further review to make a recommendation. There is a 5% town match.
* Lee Cattaneo discussed a Stormwater Mitigation Grant. He says this is the next big thing the town will need to address. The grant addresses the Winooski watershed and in our town, that means the Jail Branch and smaller brooks on Reservoir Rd that flow into the Stevens Branch. There are hydrologic implications such as wetlands protection, ditch stabilization and bank stabilization.

1. Other Business:

Low Emissions Equipment Grants - These grants provide funds for towns to replace older machines with newer, low-emissions machinery. The RFP has not been released yet. The committee looked at the town’s inventory of trucks and other road equipment, and looked at the maturity dates of the loans associated with each one. The committee will recommend that we use this grant opportunity to replace our grader, if it makes sense once the grant is formally announced.

1. Date of next meeting: November 9 at 5.00 pm
2. Adjourn: On a motion made by Lee Youngman and seconded by Lee Cattaneo, the committee adjourned at 6.22 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lee Youngman