

Town of Orange Grants Committee - Meeting Minutes 11/9/2023

In attendance: Emily Ruff, Lee Cattaneo, Angela Eastman, Steve Simpson, Lee Youngman

Committee Chair Emily Ruff called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm

Agenda revisions:

- review minutes from October 12, 2023 meeting- Emily
- Discuss vacant seat - Emily
- Route 302 study – Lee C
- Getting town approved for municipal TA for grant writing – Lee Y

On a motion made by Steve and seconded by Angela, the agenda was amended to include the above topics.– unanimous

Minutes:

Lee C made the motion to discuss the October 12th minutes, which were not previously circulated. Steve seconded the motion and asked for further discussion. Steve would like the minutes to be amended to list that Emily Ruff was not in attendance, and the meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Steve Simpson. He would also like to add that Sheila Stone was going to try to talk to Mrs. Chandler about the potential to add an additional ROW at the beginning of the Beard Rd trail for parking to our town forest. Emily suggested some clerical corrections. Lee Y will amend the October 12 minutes and circulate and we will add this to next meeting's agenda for approval.

Discuss vacant committee seat: We had proposed one seat to be filled by a member of the select board. Sheila has resigned from the committee. Lee C recommends that we ask the SB to appoint another member, preferably from the SB.

Town approval process for Municipal TA – Angela will call Georgette at Fairlee Town Clerk's office and Cindy Flanagan at Topsham Town Clerk's office to see what kinds of assistance are available.

Discuss current applications already blessed by select board:

MERP - Emily says they were advancing the deadline forward, which suggests a quicker turnaround. Worked with Sam Lash on this application. We have already received the \$4000 mini-capacity grant to hire a consultant to tell us what to do with the two buildings. There is also an energy resilience assessment, which looks like it's free to any one who applies. Angela applied for that on October 24, 2023. The actual implementation grant application is still pending. Has not been opened yet.

MPG – application completed and submitted 10/31/23. Total project cost \$4542. \$4088 with matching \$454. Award decisions in November. Grant term starts December 1, 2023, mid project report due 12/2024, end of term November 30, 2025. Final report due 12/31/25.

Emissions – Still not open yet. We will table until the select board has determined whether they will put a \$50,000 repair on the engine, or consider buying a new grader. This grant would provide 25% of the purchase price of the new equipment. At \$400,000, the grant would give us \$100,000 for a down payment. The last quote we got for a trade-in was only \$52,000 in February 2023. Steve moved we table

further discussion until we get guidance from SB on which route they will likely pursue. Emily seconded and the motion carried.

Current grants in progress:

Route 302 study. Lee Cattaneo reports we have everything we need for an RFP to hire a consultant to do the study.

Park and Ride Grant – Craig Chase heard from the State of VT about the well permit, which is work that needs to occur before the Park and Ride can progress. Steve Revell from the State indicates that it will be forthcoming soon. Once the well is done, Chase and Chase can do the engineering studies. Funds must be spent by December 31, 2024.

Better Back Roads – Deadline for 2024 has been extended because of the flooding until next year. The applications for 2025 will open soon. Our 2024 grant was \$20,000.

Grants in Aid 2023 has been extended until 9/30/2024. Our GIA for 2024 is \$10,000 and has already been awarded. Has to be expended by 9/30/2024.

Bypass Grant – Award was \$14,555 for Tucker Rd only. The SB proposes to use it to tear up and reclaim Tucker Road, and pave it the following year. It will be on the November 13, 2023 SB agenda.

HSIP grant – Advance warning systems and tree cutting on the corner of Trickle Brook. Angela will follow up. It's possible we didn't get the grant.

Discuss Potential Grants:

BRIC – Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities We can use it for project scoping, for structures (like the Riddel Pond Bridge), culvert upsizing, buying out flooded properties. Application due Friday January 12. This may not be an appropriate grant for us to pursue. Lee Cattaneo will call DPS and ask if we could use it to design the Riddle Pond bridge replacement.

State Homeland Security Grant Program - This is currently open but we don't need to pursue this grant.

Paul Bruhn historic revitalization grant – preserve and restore community gathering space -roof repair, structural, façade, door, window, climate resiliency improvements. Deadline for requests is December 1. Must be on the National Register. We passed this up.

ANR – Recreation Grant It may be too late for this year, with a Dec 15 deadline, but Lee Youngman will read the grant requirements and report out to the committee.

Next meeting will be December 14 at 5pm

Lee Cattaneo made a motion to adjourn at 6:16. Lee Youngman seconded.

Respectfully submitted by
Lee Youngman