



Town of Orange Grant Committee Meeting

September 23, 2025 11:00 am

Orange Town Complex

In Attendance: Steve Simpson, Lee Cattaneo, Emily Ruff (by phone), Bill Crowther, Diane Waters, Diane Hallenbeck

1. Steve Simpson called the meeting to order at 11:04 am.
2. There were no Agenda Revisions.
3. On a motion made by Lee Cattaneo and seconded by Steve Simpson, the June 2025 minutes were approved with all committee members in favor.
4. Review Current Grants in Progress
 - a. MERP - Sam Lash will be meeting with Greg to draft RFPs and advance project management. Steve Simpson spoke with Sam who will be advancing the hardship application for advance funds. Steve Simpson submitted the report on the Mini MERP grant, which was previously expended, and also worked on the quarterly report for Implementation. Emily Ruff will coordinate on scheduling the meeting with Sam, Greg, and the committee.
 - b. MPG - Lee Cattaneo reported that surveys were distributed and will be returned by 10/11. Niki Sabado will attend Planning Commission meeting on 10/15 to report on survey results.
5. Review Completed Grant Reimbursement Submissions
 - a. FHWA:
 - i. Reservoir Road - There are two separate submissions which SS has signed off on.
 - ii. Cutler Corner Road and Smith Road work still has to be completed. A scoping study may be necessary to present to VTrans.
 - iii. Tucker Road - Lee Cattaneo and Steve Simpson recommended we ask CVRPC to conduct a study on this road to be included in state and FHWA.
 - b. LHMP: This grant received final check on May 28 2025 and is now closed.
 - c. Others
 - i. Grants in Aid FY26 - Unsure of status with Chelsea's departure. Emily will reach out to Ashley Andrews for a status report.
 - ii. Better Back Roads FY26 - Town should have received information on July 1 for George Street, we are unsure of status with Chelsea's departure. Emily Ruff will reach out to Dan Judkins for a status report.
 - iii. Better Back Roads FY27 - The application for the new round is due October 31 2025. Steve Simpson will meet with the Road Commissioner and Road Crew to prepare and complete the application.
 - iv. Park and Ride Grant - Emily Ruff reminded the committee that we applied for an extension which was approved. Work on this grant must be completed by 12/31/2026
6. Discuss Potential Grants and Application Submissions
 - a. Transportation Alternatives Grant - Lee Cattaneo shared information about this grant, noting it can be used for work related to erosion control and stormwater mitigation. It is funded in tandem with the Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation Grant, and has a deadline of November

7th 2025. If a construction project is submitted but doesn't advance beyond scoping, a payback provision is initiated. Steve Simpson shared concerns about project readiness for this round.

- b. Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation Grant - This was reviewed in tandem with grant above. Emily Ruff pointed out that salt/sand shed is an eligible project under these funds. Steve Simpson will meet with the Road Commissioner and Road Crew to prepare and complete the application.
- c. EV Charger Grant - Emily will complete the partner estimate and site plan to submit to the program. This will be added to meeting with Sam and Greg on leveraging work on Park and Ride, MERP and this grant in combination.

7. Other Business

- a. UST and Wheeler Engineering Report - Steve will follow up to get the Wheeler Engineering Report to circulate and advance
- b. Steve Simpson shared that Doug Farnham indicated there will be a check coming from the state through the portal. FEMA and State will be providing updates on status soon.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:09 pm on a motion from Lee Cattaneo and seconded by Steve Simpson with all committee members in favor.

ACTION:

- Emily
 - Contact Sam Lash and Greg Colling to confirm meeting for MERP, including Park and Ride and EV scopes.
 - Contact Installation Partner for estimate on EV Grant.
 - Contact Ashley Andrews re Grants in Aid FY26
 - Contact Dan Judkins re Better Roads FY26 George Street
- Steve
 - Work with Road Crew on Better Roads FY27 Grant Application (October 31 deadline) > Applications at: <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/better-roads>
 - Work with Road Crew on Salt/Sand Shed project concept for Transportation Alternatives and Municipal Highway/Stormwater Mitigation Grant Forms (November 7 deadline) > Applications at: <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/local-projects/transport-alt> and <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/Municipal-Highway-and-Stormwater-Mitigation-Program>
 - Follow up to abstain Wheeler Engineering Report.