

RTM Finance Committee Meeting
August 2, 2012

Members Present: Jeff Wieser, Chair; Lois Schine, Dick Lowenstein; Cathy Talmadge; Gil Nathan; Lee Arthurs;

Others Present: Stephen Edwards, Dir., Public Works.; Louis Gagliano, Chairman Downtown 2020 ; Gary Conrad, Fin. Dir.

Lou Gagliano and Stephen Edwards presented to the Committee the details of grant request to the State of Connecticut for up to \$497,500 to provide street scape improvements (beautification, lighting) and sidewalk improvements to the Westport general downtown area. The funds would be used primarily for sidewalks downtown and leading to downtown. The grant application is under a new state program this year for towns with populations of 30,000 or less. The total size of the funding is \$5,000,000 with no more than \$500,000 going to one town. There are no matching fund requirements of the town. There is a specific requirement of this grant that the town legislative body (in the case of Westport the RTM) authorizes the submission of the grant application.

On a motion by Lois Schine and a second by Lee Arthurs, the committee voted 6-0 to enthusiastically approve the application.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Arthurs

Report of RTM Long Range Planning Committee

Meeting Held 7/24/12 Town Hall Rm. 309

Attending: J. Cunitz (Chairman), J. Klinge, D. Loselle, V. Heller, L. Shine, A. Bomes, W. Batteau, C. Rea

Reporter: D. Loselle

The Committee listened to a presentation by the Downtown 2020 Committee Chairman, Lou Gagliano. Lou was presenting before the LRP to seek our approval for the submission of a grant application to the State of Connecticut, Office of Policy Management, Main Street Investment Fund. This is a new State Fund targeted at small municipalities with populations less than 30,000. Downtown 2020 is seeking the approval of the entire RTM, as it is a specific requirement of this grant, that approval of the Town legislative body be given authorizing submission of the grant application. A certified resolution showing approval is required and must be submitted with the grant application.

The general purpose of the grant will be to provide street scape improvements (beautification, lighting) and sidewalk improvements in the general downtown area which will help enhance the overall environment, improve aesthetics, and improve pedestrian access and safety. Potentially the improvements also will promote commercial viability in the downtown area.

Lou has worked with Public Works Director, Steve Edwards to identify specific "shovel ready" projects that have been considered as desirable, but for which there has been no discretionary funding available to pursue. Much of the project work will be focused on providing sidewalks on a number of radial paths which lead into Downtown which currently have no sidewalks. The new sidewalks will better integrate residential surrounding areas with Downtown and make for an overall improved ability to walk around Westport.

Westport is applying for \$497,500 in grant funding which is near the maximum cap of \$500,000 that can be awarded to any one Town. A total of \$5 million is available statewide this year. It is uncertain if this grant will be repeated in subsequent years. There are no matching funds requirements from the Town. The application is due to the State in late September, but the 2020 Committee and Steve Edwards want to submit it as soon as possible to enhance the Town's chances of obtaining the maximum funding possible.

The improvements contemplated are in accordance with items previously outlined in the Town Plan of Conservation and Development. Lou Gagliano stated that the detailed improvements do not conflict with any work potentially contemplated by the Downtown Committee and in fact enhance and support the Committee's charge.

The grant application was previously approved by the Board of Selectman on July 18, 2012.

The LRP Committee voted unanimously to wholeheartedly approve and support the application.

Respectfully submitted,

Dewey J. Loselle III