

MINUTES
Public Hearing
Tuesday March 30, 2021
5:30 PM
Municipal Building - Council Room
Zoom meeting and Town's Facebook Page

Present:

Jeff Hewett, Director of Economic & Community Development
Renee Belliveau, Recording Secretary

Others Present (Online):

Jason Gayne
Christine Almand
Viewed online with 123 views (time unknown)

1. Discussion on applying for a 2021 Community Enterprise Grant Program.

Meeting called to order and live at 5:32pm.

A slide show presentation was displayed to go over grant program including the following details:

The intent of this program is to help businesses to improve the exterior of their building(s). The grant application submittal date is by April 9, 2021. The maximum amount each town is eligible to apply for is \$100,000.00. Individual businesses are allowed to apply for up to \$10,000.00 each.

Applicants must attend a mandatory meeting, which a date and time will be posted at a later date. Sign up for News Flash on the Town's website and you will be notified. The due date of applications will be posted at a later date; the date included in presentation was incorrect.

Properties need to pass a historical approval for the façade project, if the building is not historical or contributing to any historical district then there wouldn't be any issues moving forward with the project. If the building is considered historical, then certain projects to remodel are not allowed that could take away from any of its historical features, such as:

Vinyl siding
Vinyl windows
Replacing larger windows with smaller windows, unless smaller windows were original to the building.

These changes may be excused and allowed if the State Historical Preservation Commission approves such changes. The Economic and Community Development office will help obtain historical clearance for each project.

Properties must also be approved by the Skowhegan Code Enforcement Officer and State as a Spot Slum and Blight documentation. This document states any issues with property/building that would need to be addressed. This is not something the building owner has to initiate themselves; this would be taken care of by the Town.

Eligible projects for funding would be any remodeling/replacement of exterior to building. Projects include, for example, signage, awnings, storefront improvements, restoration of windows, cleaning and/or repointing brick work, and paint removal. There must be a minimum of a one-to-one match dollars, which would come from any improvements made to inside or outside of building, additions to structure or pavement of parking lot but only from new funds spent in 2021.

We were one of first towns to be able to do town-wide projects. We can only do commercial part of buildings, nothing to do with residential parts. Different projects done throughout the town were shown as examples throughout slideshow.

Jason Gayne pointed out and asked if this was open to non-profits as well that are open for business and have a base in town of Skowhegan.

Jeff Hewett answered, we have done a number of non-profits but if it's a new non-profit, then it may need to be sent to the State to get better clarification.

No other questions or comments were made during or after meeting. Jeff Hewett made clear that if any other comments or questions came up that we would put them up on Facebook page and offered for people to send questions into office or contact him directly. Any questions or comments made outside the meeting would not be included in paperwork being submitted to the State for application.

Meeting closed at 5:50 pm.

A True Copy Attest:

Gail R. Pelotte, Town Clerk 04/02/21