

Meeting of BH Grants Committee - September 18, 2019, 8:00PM, Liza Viana home

Attending: Tom McLean, Meera Rao, Lisa DeFrancesco, Sue Pangis, Adam Uanis, Janice McLean, Judi Sills, Liza

Regrets: Susan Poage, Kathy Danneberg

I Old Business:

Reports from members re: research assignments

- **Meera** went to a meeting “It’s Electric! Planning for Electric Vehicles in Your Community”. She had circulated materials from the meeting earlier:

http://www.sustainablejersey.com/fileadmin/media/Events_and_Trainings/Awards_Ceremony/NJLM_Sessions/2018/SJ_EV_NJLM_Session_FINAL.pdf

She said the meeting was excellent with great ideas on how to move towards supporting Electric Vehicles, including Grant suggestions. In addition to the provision of charging stations discussed at the last meeting, Meera would really like to see us move towards equipping the town services with electric vehicles.

Meera also mentioned there would be a Grants Forum at the annual League of Municipalities meeting in Atlantic City and she and Janice voiced interest in attending.

Later in the meeting, Liza also voiced electric vehicles and charging stations as priorities and we discussed opportunities to get deals or assistance from the major electric vehicle manufacturers. Adam volunteered to call Tesla, Meera to call Nissan. Liza has contacts at Connell Corporate park and will see if we can get information around their investments in electric vehicles and charging.

- **Sue** reported on a program, “Drive Green” that would provide grants to local governments to help fund electric vehicle programs. This sounded promising except that the program was currently out of funds to distribute (although it expected more soon). Sue gave details of the program to Lisa for inclusion in the grants calendar.

- **Tom** reported that 2 of the Federal grants that Lisa had highlighted in the calendar looked very promising for continuing the work on the Littel-Lord property. The “Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections” looked particularly promising, with available funds of up to \$50k for planning and \$300k for

implementation of exactly the type of preservation activities the historical society was pursuing, including investment in climate and humidity control systems to prevent further decay. The grant site had examples of successful submissions and the submission for a grant by the Harriet Beacher Stowe house looked very similar in concept to the plans we submitted to Union County for the Littel Lord restoration.

The other federal grant for “Access to Historical Records” was about archiving and preserving documents specifically. This could also prove useful, but was less in line with the plans already made.

Both of these are federal grants with very significant effort required. Meera has applied for some of these grants before and there are mandatory full day training sessions in Trenton. There are multiple rounds of applications. For the first round of the Sustaining Culture grant, the application becomes available Nov 15, drafts are to be submitted in December, and final submissions in January, 2020. The winners of the first round of applications are then required to contribute to a second round with money to actually be granted for spending in 2021.

For both grants, submissions must be made through Grants.gov, an online workspace for federal grants. To get an account, we need to get an EIN (tax number) and a Dunn&Bradstreet account. Tom will work to get the necessary information.

Tom didn't think so, but wasn't sure if matching funds would be required for the Sustaining Cultural Heritage grant. He will confirm. This might be a problem with the large sums involved. Matching funds were definitely required for the Access to Historical Records grants.

Our timeline for signing up to Grants.gov may depend on the setup of the townships “Historical Preservation Committee”. This is to be up for discussion at the next town meeting with the Ordinance creating it expected for approval the last week of October.

As an aside to this discussion, Lisa asked what (other?) 501c3 legal charities are associated with the Town. Janice confirmed that Peppertown Park and Memorial Park each have their own charitable organizations.

- o **Adam** reported on investigation of funding for the rescue squad. Unfortunately, the Rescue squad's radio needs are still vague with Joe Savino saying that they might only need 6 radios rather than the 20 originally reported.

Adam looked into some municipal grant opportunities online and found lots of grants for police and many for fire departments, but few for rescue squads. There was conjecture that this might be because the police and fire squads were more formally associated with the town government.

Adam has a call into the “Green Power” committee about solar panel/ electric charging opportunities, but has not yet heard back.

- Although not a research task from the last meeting, **Judi** reported that a non-profit she works at is about to announce a grant of \$75k for initial planning of “age friendly community development”. This sounded right in line with some work that Liza reported the town was looking into doing to improve life for Seniors. The grant is due in December, and will be announced on Friday. Judi would need to recuse herself from voting on our submission, but that doesn’t mean we shouldn’t apply. The \$75k was for initial planning, but there would be an opportunity for additional funds in year 2 for implementation. Meera volunteered to look into what other nearby towns have done.
- **Janice** said she had requested a list of Peppertown Park’s needs from Midge, but hasn’t received them yet.
- **Lisa** reported that she had a page of community based grants at NRPA.org, that looked very relevant to some of the towns needs, including maybe Peppertown Park. But also for the rec’s commission. There was a program where professional baseball ground crews would come and teach the town’s maintenance crews the tricks of maintaining a diamond. In particular, there is a grant “Safe Places to Play” from US Soccer that sounded relevant to the soccer fields at lower Columbia. This grant requires a letter of intent to be filed by Sept 27. Liza will follow up with Tom Barton from the rec commission to get him to file the letter of intent or to ask the grant committee for help in filing.
- **Liza** still has to put the (Kathy’s) Grant Application form up on the town’s web site
- Discussion grant alternatives for the Sewage Plant will wait for the next meeting when Susan and Kathy will be in attendance.

Next Meeting: Oct 30, 7:30 PM, Location TBD

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ACTIONS summary

- **Adam**
 - o Continue to confirm needs for Rescue Squad, e.g. Radios
 - o Call Tesla about funds/discounts/incentives for municipal investment in Electric Cars
 - o Look at EPA grant opportunities
- **Tom**
 - o Research additional historical preservation funds, setup grants.gov acct.
 - o Look into bank community funding (from last meeting)
- **Janice**
 - o Confirm Peppertown Park needs and document in Grant Form
- **Meera**
 - o Research investments for seniors in other towns
- **Judi**
 - o Distribute Grotto senior fund grant information (done)
- **Lisa**
 - o Further updates to the db
- **Liza**
 - o Upload the Grant Application Form to the town website.
 - o Get Tom Barton to send a letter of interest for “Safe Places to Play” and to ask for help if he needs it.
 - o Get information about Connel’s funding of solar panels/electric charging.