

Meeting of BH Grants Committee - October 30, 2019, 7:30PM, Town Hall

Attending: Tom McLean, Meera Rao, Lisa DeFrancesco, Sue Pangis, Adam Uanis, Janice McLean, Judi Sills, Susan Poage, Kathy Danneberg

Regrets: Liza Porteus

I. Old Business:

Reports from members re: research assignments

○ **Rescue Squad:** Adam has confirmed that our Rescue Squad does qualify for AFG (Assistance to Firefighters) grants, although these are closed for the year. Lisa will add to our master calendar. He also found that there is an American Water/Fire EMS grant for \$1k that opens in January. He will send the information to Lisa for documentation.

○ **Car Chargers/Solar Panels:** Adam called the Tesla dealership in the Short Hills Mall and started discussion about car chargers. Would we be interested in an Electric Vehicle show and drive event to develop a partnership? Adam sent a proposal to Angie and Liza. The committee liked the idea - could we make this part of Winter Walk?

Adam will continue to drive car charger investigation. Liza thinks a car charger will cost about \$5k. We may need insurance.

Sue reported that solar panels were a topic at last night's town council. Gable Associates has been engaged to do an analysis of the prospects for solar canopies in the car park area (like they have at Connell).

○ **Littell-Lord Farmstead:** Susan has discovered that the NJ Historical Preservation Organization has a grant program that will match other grants. Since we won our Union County grant for the farmstead (to be announced later in the meeting), we can apply. Susan has 2 names people to call about the grant but needs someone to help her make the call. Sue volunteered.

The Town Council has now formally established the Historical Preservation Committee under Stephen Yellin and has 2 members with good qualifications.

Tom confirmed additional details of the Federal, National Endowment for the Humanities grant for "Sustaining Cultural Heritage" discussed in the September meeting. The grant will provide up to 80% funds for up to \$50k for planning over

2 years and up to 50% funds to \$350k over 5 years for implementation of projects. These funds are for exactly the type of preservation activities the historical society is already pursuing, including investment in climate and humidity control systems to prevent further decay. The grant form will become available Nov 15th with submissions due in January.

Tom will work to gather information for the application when it becomes available. Meera reiterated her information from last meeting that these Federal grants require substantial effort including an expectation of attendance at full day training sessions. Tom will contact Liza about architects and experts who should be referenced in the form materials.

Janice provided an overview of a smaller grant, also from the National Endowment for the Humanities that is only for organizations that have never received funds from them before. This grant, and others Janice has seen, are particularly interested in investing in history that can be related to the U.S.A's upcoming 250th Birthday in 2026. The Farmstead is from right around this time and it might be a great selling point to push restoration efforts in preparation for the anniversary.

We discussed other opportunities to solicit funds from the community for Littell-Lord. This is particularly important since our main grants are matching grants and we are starting to commit the accumulated funds of the Historical Society. It would be great if the Historical Society and/or Historical Preservation Committee could have a booth at Winter Walk. We should request investment from our town businesses (we came back to this later in the meeting a couple times - solicit the banks in town, solicit Connell)

- **Peppertown Park:** the park is expected to still need funds to address drainage issues, but Janice has not gotten a reply to queries. She should reach out to Manny Couto from the Town Council about getting a grant form submitted. The town does have some money for drainage from a Union County grant, but its not believed that this will go to Peppertown.

(Kathy pointed out that the Grant Form was still not showing on the town website. She is also not listed on the committee membership. Susan pointed out that Kathy and Janice were the "TBC"s in the membership, but needed to fill out membership applications and be confirmed before they could be considered official members)

o **Senior Center:** A letter of intent to file for the GROTTA grant to help the Senior Community is due November 15. Meera will own filing it. There is supposed to be a call next week about this grant, Judi will find out the date and time.

Susan raised the idea of funding for a “Senior Playground” - no one really liked that name, but the idea of an outdoor meeting space for seniors with exercise equipment was popular.

o **Other old business not on the agenda**

- We again discussed a number of community grants from NRPA.org that Lisa raised in the September meeting. Janice reported that unfortunately the “Safe Places to Play” grant from US Soccer was only for fields devoted exclusively to soccer, which we don’t really have. Lisa and Susan will look more closely at the Honeybee grants. There are also museum grants which might be relevant to Littell-Lord, but the definition of a “museum” seems to require a full time staff, so probably not at this time.
- There did not appear to be good grants available for Sewage Plant investment just low or zero cost loans.

Grants received update

o **We Won!** The township was awarded \$85,000 from the Union County grant for matching funds for the preservation of the Littell-Lord farmhouse and its documents.

Grants calendar/database share (updates)

Lisa encouraged everyone to maintain the calendar directly or to send her updates. We weren’t sure that everyone had access to the calendar in drive, so we should republish.

In addition to the calendar, there is a document form listing grant research opportunities that Susan created for our initial meeting. Lisa and others have been updating this and it has useful comments detailing relevance or timeliness of different grant sites. But a lot of the grants listed have been identified as not actually being relevant. Lisa will clean this up and remove the “dead end” grants but will keep a historical copy.

II. New Business

Grants.gov account. Organizational account? Workflow?

Although Susan established a personal account at Grants.gov and shared it with the committee, allowing people to see grants/training etc., there is also an “organizational” account at grants.gov which will allow us to create and assign workflows around grants that we apply for. Tom thinks we may need this for our federal grants. Tom will follow up.

III. From the Floor

Scanning help needed: Janice reported that the township needs help digitizing/scanning large volumes of documents from its business dealings. Adam will work with Janice to quantify the need for scanners and get a Grants form completed for the need.

Fundraising: We had additional discussions around the need for fundraising to provide funds that our grants could match. Other towns have sponsors for their sports fields - and often much nicer facilities that come with the sponsorships.

Susan will draft a letter that we can give to local businesses asking them if they have grants/community investment programs for areas where the township needs funds (and where we are researching matching grants). Kathy will ask Connell about funds.

Angie would be great (effective) to ask for corporate sponsorship funds, although she will need to avoid conflicts of interest. Susan will approach her.

The League of Municipalities annual meeting is from 19 to 21 of November and will include discussion on municipal grant opportunities. Susan will appoint Janice to go for us.

More actions on Charging Stations

Sue will investigate opportunities from the state DEP to fund charging stations for electric vehicles.

Janice will check with Liza on other State or County funding opportunities for charging stations.

Adam is being sent by the firefighters to Grants training in a couple weeks and still hasn't confirmed a grant for them to work on in class. If he doesn't get one, we will work on our Littell-Lord “Sustaining Cultural Heritage” federal grant application (Tom gave him some initial materials).

IV. Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 20th
(regrets from Janice, who will be at the League of Municipalities)

ACTIONS summary

- **All**
 - o Update your contact details in the Google Drive document. Tom will share
 - o Review and update the master calendar, or send updates to Lisa
- **Adam**
 - o Continuing to drive work on car chargers. Update Liza on information.
 - o Work with Janice to quantify scanner needs/costs.
- **Tom**
 - o Continue work on Littell-Lord "Sustaining Cultural Heritage" federal grants. Contact Liza for expert information.
 - o Grants.gov organizational account
- **Janice**
 - o Contact Manny about Peppertown Park needs and document in Grant Form
 - o File application of membership to the Grants committee
 - o Janice will check with Liza on other State or County funding opportunities for charging stations.
- **Meera**
 - o File indication of interest for GROTTA grant. Get on introductory phone call with Grantor organization.
- **Susan**
 - o Draft form letter to present when asking fundraisers for money to support grants
 - o Send Sue names for followup on the NJ Historical Preservation Organization matching grant
 - o Ask Angie about corporate sponsorship for fields/grant matching funds
 - o Formally appoint Janice to attend League of Municipalities
- **Kathy**
 - o File application of membership to the Grants committee
- **Sue**
 - o Call Susan's contacts to understand the requirements for the NJ Historical Preservation Organization matching grant
 - o Investigate opportunities from the state DEP to fund charging stations
- **Judi**
 - o Confirm meeting time for GROTTA meeting
- **Lisa**
 - o Cleanup the Grants research document but keep a historical copy.
 - o Work with Susan to investigate Honeybee grant from NRPA.org
- **Liza**
 - o (From last meeting) Upload the Grant Application Form to the town website.
 - o (From last meeting) Get information about Connell's funding of solar panels/electric charging.