

TOWN OF ADAMS SELECTMEN'S MEETING AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, January 23, 2013 – 7:00 PM

TOWN HALL, MEETING ROOM, 1st FLOOR, ADAMS, MA 01220

1. **CALL TO ORDER – 7:00 PM**
2. **READING OF MINUTES – November 7, 2012 & January 9, 2013**
3. **CITIZEN'S CONFERENCE**
4. **PUBLIC HEARING**

7:10 PM – FY2013 CDBG - Application
5. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - Middle School Updates
6. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - Berkshire Scenic Rail Project discussion
7. **SUBCOMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS**
8. **A. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

B. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

C. POLICE DEPARTMENT
 - Appointment of Full – Time Patrolman
D. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

E. OTHER DEPARTMENTS
 - Annual Town Election Calendar
 - Set the Dog License Fees
F. TOWN COUNSELOR'S REPORT
9. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
10. **APPROVALS**

CLERK

TOWN CLERK
ADAMS MASS.

13 FEB 27 AM 8:47

RECEIVED-POSTED

- Approval of One Day Beer & Wine License for Bart Charter Public School – Saturday, April 27, 2013 Fundraiser
- Facilities Request - Adams Visitors Center – ProAdams – Thunderfest Saturday, February 9, 2013

11. **OTHER BUSINESS**

1. Agenda items

12. **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

13. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

January 23, 2013

On the above date the Board of Selectmen held a meeting at 7:00 PM, at Town Hall. Chairman Harrington presided, present Michael Ouellette, Scott Nichols, Jonathan Butler, Town Administrator, and Edmund R. St. John III, Town Counsel. Absent, John Duval

Chairman Harrington called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

MINUTES

A motion made by Member Ouellette, seconded by Member Nichols to approve and waive the reading of the minutes of November 7, 2012 – Unanimous motion passed

A motion made by Member Ouellette, seconded by Member Nichols to approve and waive the reading of the minutes of January 9, 2013 – Unanimous motion passed.

CITIZEN'S CONFERENCE

Resident, Jeff Lefebvre complimented the Adams Highway Department he felt they did a good job clearing the roads. The Civic Club meet this past Sunday and the guest speaker was Kristin Gordon, Superintendent of Adams Cheshire Regional School District. Also the Maple Grove Civic Club will be holding another fund raiser for the Dana Labbee Basketball Summer Program on February 2, at the PNA 4:00-7:00 PM.

David Bissaillon updated the Board on the upcoming Thunderfest Event which is scheduled for Saturday, February 9th if there isn't enough snow for the race it will be moved to Saturday, March 2nd. He also wanted to thank the Town and the Town Administrator for their support.

APPROVALS

A motion made by Member Nichols, seconded by Member Ouellette to approve a One Day Special License to Bart Charter School for their annual fundraiser – Unanimous motion passed.

A motion made by Member Ouellette, seconded by Member Nichols to approve the Facilities Request for the Pro Adams to use the Visitors Center on Saturday, February 9th with the amendment of adding Saturday, March 2nd for the Thunderfest Event – Unanimous motion passed.

PUBLIC HEARING

At 7:10 PM

A motion made by Member Nichols, seconded by Member Ouellette to open the Public Hearing for the FY2013 CDBG Application - Unanimous motion passed

Donna Cesan, Community Development Director, gave an overview of the 2013 Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant Program. She noted the handout for the Board and the audience and stated as in previous years, eligible CDBG program activities included Planning, Housing and Commercial Rehabilitation, Economic Development, Infrastructure Improvements, Community Facilities and Public Social Services. The State expects \$27.7 Million dollars from HUD for 2013 and of this about \$13.4 Million will be allocated for the Community Development Fund I program which is the program the Town of Adams is eligible to apply for. Under this year's grant the maximum amount of grant funds a community can request is \$900,000. The deadline for this year's application is Friday February 15th. She said the main purpose of the evening's public hearing is to obtain public input and to obtain the Board's approval for the Town's FY2013 Community Development Strategy and to obtain Board approval of the program activities proposed under the Town's 2013 CDBG application. The Town's seven-page Community Development strategy is a requirement of the application, and communities must demonstrate activities in their proposed applications are consistent with their strategy. She said the strategy defines community developments priority and needs and outlines a plan of action on how to accomplish the goals. Also CDBG-funded projects and programs must be consistent with the Commonwealth's Sustainable Development Principals and the Strategy has to include a statement on how this will occur. Each activity for the CDBG 2013 application must to relate to and be reflected in the strategy. Ms. Cesan said that the Strategy must also include a list of priority community development projects and explain how the community plans to accomplish these priorities over a 3 to 5 year period. She added that the draft 2013 Adams Community Development Strategy has been updated from previous years and approved by the Selectmen. There has been input from the Downtown Development Committee, the Board of Selectmen and especially the public during the January 8th Public Meeting. She said the meeting was well attended and provided a great deal of spirited discussion on the Community Development Priorities and goals. She did note one change since this meeting and that was to add the Berkshire Scenic Railroad project to the list. At this time Ms. Cesan requested a Board vote to endorse the FY2013 Community Development Strategy for the Town of Adams.

Chairman Harrington asked if the Board members had any comments. Member Ouellette agreed about adding the Scenic Railroad to the list noting this will be a very important community project over the next year or two.

Resident Jeffrey Lefebvre asked if there were any projects that were removed from the list. Ms. Cesan stated that the only project removed from the list was the Adams Bike Plan, noting that removing it had been discussed at the public meeting on the strategy.

A motion made by Member Ouellette, seconded by Member Nichols, to approve the Town's FY2013 Community Development Strategy as proposed passed – Unanimous

Ms. Cesan also requested a vote from the Board regarding the proposed program activities for the FY2013 CDBG application. This year staff is recommending two program activity areas for the Town's Block Grant. She said staff also recommends the Town request the maximum grant amount of \$900,000 in CDBG funding to undertake the following program activities:

Rehabilitation Activity: continuation of the Adams Housing Rehabilitation Program will provide funding to undertake rehab of residential units for low and moderate income residents of town. She said that staff is proposing approximately \$256,000 in direct funds for continuation of the Housing Rehabilitation efforts targeted at making improvements to residential structures within the Downtown Area, with another \$41,675 identified for program delivery. Ms. Cesan stated that with this amount of grant funding, the goal would be to rehab at least ten (10) low-to-moderate income housing units in the downtown target area. Construction Activity: Park Street Improvement Project – provides funds for the reconstruction of Park Street from its beginning at Hoosic River Bridge to its intersection with East Maple Street. The infrastructure project includes new pavement, sidewalks and handicapped accessible ramps, new enhanced crosswalks, drainage improvements and repairs to existing sewer lines near Town Hall, relocation of some hydrants, and new landscaping, benches, and trash receptacles. A total of \$510,900 in funds is proposed for construction, with another \$34,535 proposed for program delivery. She added that, if funded, the project could be put out to bid as early as fall 2013, with construction extending through 2014. She noted that in designing the proposed improvements to Park Street, the Town had conducted a highly interactive public process – first with the project steering committee, then about five public meetings prior to the public hearing for the 2012 CDBG program. She stated that since funding was not awarded to the Town last year, staff has again worked with the project engineers, Tighe & Bond, Inc., who conducted another public meeting on January 15th to familiarize residents with the project design. Ms. Cesan stated that the engineers have been carefully reviewing the project budget and will also be assisting staff in updating other materials for the application.

She said that this project and the proposed continuation of the Housing Rehabilitation Program are consistent with the recommendations in the *Adams Downtown Development Plan* and the Town's Community Development Strategy. To support all of these activities \$56,890 in General Administration is also proposed for a total Block Grant request of \$900,000. She explained to the Board that the line item amounts under the various categories within the draft budget would be subject to change as staff works to fine tune the specific program activities.

In response to a question by Member Ouellette, Town Administrator Jonathan Butler stated that they will be proposing use of Chapter 90 transportation funds and other Town funds to add to the Park Street project budget. He emphasized the public participation process for this project, how in addition to public meetings they met with the Town's public safety and emergency services leadership to review the proposed design elements and to make sure they would be comfortable with any proposed changes to Park Street. He said they are all strongly supportive of the project. He believed that given how important the project is to the community in going forward, it is appropriate to use Town funds, where available, so the project impact is not diminished and the improvements needed are achieved. He noted that with the Berkshire Scenic project now in the spotlight and other efforts at events like Thunderfest and Ramblefest at the Visitors Center, more visitors would be coming into downtown Adams than ever before. He stated that the time to do the Park Street project is now and the Town should do what it could to make this application more attractive. There was positive concurrence by Board members.

A motion made by Member Nichols, seconded by Member Ouellette to approve the FY2013 CDBG proposed program activities and submission of the application for the maximum grant amount of \$900,000 passed – Unanimous

Resident Jeffrey Lefebvre commented that he was very impressed with the project, and he wanted to say that Ms. Cesan had done a good job on the public process surrounding the project.

A motion made by Member Nichols, seconded by Member Ouellette to close the Public hearing at 7:53 PM – Unanimous motion passed

OLD BUSINESS

Jonathan Butler, Town Administrator updated the Board and the general public that the Town is continuing to monitor the building and working forward at different opportunities to work for grant funding and outside help with the project. In terms of the tenants of the building the Town has a dialog with the Youth Center and are actually in negotiations with **Tassarno** and he hopes this will continue in a positive direction

NEW BUSINESS

Jonathan Butler, Town Administrator discussed with the Board the Berkshire Scenic Rail Project. This project will be funded by the state, being proposed is a Berkshire Scenic Rail attraction the will run on weekends from downtown North Adams to Adams, Hoosac Street. It requires the reconstruction of 6/10th of a mile of train tracks between the cooperate park in Adams to Hoosac Street. The redesign money for that 6/10th of a mile and other upgrades that need to be made has been committed by Mass DOT. If all goes as planned construction could began in the later part of 2013. This will bring an operational downtown attraction that has the potential to bring 15,000 to 20,000 people into the downtown by 2014.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

A copy of this report is attached

POLICE DEPARTMENT

A motion by Member Nichols, seconded by Member Ouellette to approve the ratification of Travis Cunningham to permanent Full-Time Police Office - Unanimous motion passed

OTHER DEPARTMENTS

A motion made by Member Nichols, seconded by Member Ouellette to approve the Election Calendar - Unanimous motion passed

A motion made by Member Nichols, seconded by Member Ouellette to approve the dog licenses fees - Unanimous motion passed.

TOWN COUNSELOR'S REPORT

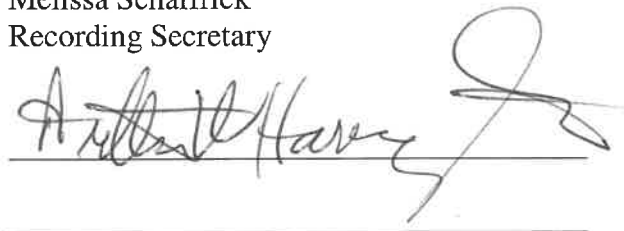
The following report was submitted by Edmund R. St. John III

- Review, research and response regarding common victualer's licenses.
- Review, research and response regarding special legislation concerning creation of an all alcoholic beverage license.
- Continued work on renewal of site access agreement with Berkshire Gas.

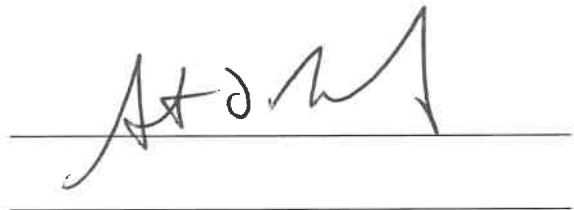
ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to transact a motion made by Member Ouellette, seconded by Member Nichols to adjourn at 7:51 PM – Unanimous motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted
Melissa Schaffrick
Recording Secretary



Handwritten signature of Melissa Schaffrick, Recording Secretary, over a horizontal line.



Handwritten signature of Edmund R. St. John III, over a horizontal line.

Edmund R. St. John III

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January 23, 2013

TOWN COUNSEL REPORT

The following matters were reviewed since my last report:

- Review, research and response regarding common victualer's licenses.
- Review, research and response regarding special legislation concerning creation of all-alcoholic beverages license.
- Continued work on renewal of site access agreement with Berkshire Gas.



Town of Adams • Massachusetts 01220-2087

JONATHAN W. BUTLER
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

TOWN HALL
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Memorandum

To: Board of Selectmen

From: Jonathan Butler, Town Administrator

Subject: Town Administrator's Report

Date: January 23, 2013

JWB

1. I wanted to take a moment to both inform the Board and congratulate WWTP Director Joe Fijal and his staff for recently being selected by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a 2012 Regional EPA Wastewater Plant Excellence Award recipient. They were nominated by the Massachusetts DEP as an acknowledgement of sustained outstanding operations and maintenance work being performed at the Adams plant.

This truly is a great acknowledgement of the hard work of Joe and his six crew at the plant – Richard Biros, Bob Rumboldt, Dan Ostrobinski, Walt Gerry, Jimmy Ahola and James Thompson.

2. Library Project – The Town has a \$75,000 item in the current year's budget to begin moving forward with the architectural/engineering phase at the Adams Library. We issued an RFP for design services to begin this process and received three submittals from qualified vendors. We have held those interviews, and intend to be under contract with our top selected vendor by the first week of February.
3. Town Hall Roof – The Town has determined that the primary portion of the Town Hall building has reached a point where a serious discussion about replacement of the shingle roof needs to take place. Using FY13 operational funds, we are going to be bringing in an architect to work with us in putting together some cost estimates that can potentially be brought to Town Meeting as a capital project. While the condition of the Town Hall roof is not dire, it is in need of replacement and should be addressed before it degrades any further.





Town of Adams • Massachusetts 01220-2039

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
DONNA E. CESAN, *Director*

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MEMORANDUM _____

TO: Adams Board of Selectmen

FROM: Donna E. Cesan *DEC*

DATE: January 18, 2013

RE: **Adams Community Development Strategy
FY2013 Community Development Block Grant Application (CDBG)**

RECEIVED-POSTED
14 SEP - 8 AM 9:10
TOWN CLERK
ADAMS MA

During the January 23, 2013 public hearing on the Town's FY2013 Community Development Strategy and CDBG application, there are two areas requiring Board action: 1) review and endorsement of the Town of Adams Community Development Strategy; and 2) approval of the proposed program activities for the FY2013 CDBG application. Please find attached a summary of the CDBG allocation available to the Commonwealth and the Community Development Fund I component (funds for which the Town is eligible), the draft CD Strategy, and a proposed summary budget for the Town's FY2013 CDBG funding request.

I. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Communities applying for CDBG funds are required to have an approved Community Development Strategy, which serves to summarize various planning documents used by the community and outline a plan of action intended to accomplish specific community development goals that will have an impact on the community. The Strategy must also discuss how the community will plan for and implement projects that are consistent with the Commonwealth's Sustainable Development Principles. Each activity in the community's FY2013 application must relate to and be reflected in this Strategy. The Strategy must include a list of priority projects and also explain how the community expects to address these and other priorities with CDBG and non-CDBG funds over a 3-5 year period.

The Town's FY2013 Community Development Strategy has been updated from the Strategy approved by the Selectmen last year, and reflects citizen input during the January 8, 2013 public meeting.

RECOMMENDED BOARD VOTE: Endorse the draft Town of Adams FY2013 Community Development Strategy.

"Home of Mt. Greylock"



FY 2013 MA Community Development Block Grant Program

FY 2013 Eligible Projects

The following types of projects are eligible for funding under the Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant Program:

- planning;
- housing rehabilitation and creation of affordable housing;
- efforts directed toward rehabilitation and stabilization of existing neighborhoods, commercial areas and downtowns;
- infrastructure;
- economic development projects which create and/or retain jobs;
- construction and/or rehabilitation of community facilities; and
- public social services.

Availability of CDBG Program Funds

A single community may receive no more than \$1.35 million from Community Development Fund I within two successive program years. Economic Development Fund and Reserves awards are not subject to the \$1.35 million cap per community.

Application Due Dates for CDBG FY 2013 Program:

Community Development Fund:	February 15, 2013
Mini-Entitlement Program:	February 15, 2013
Economic Development Fund:	Applications accepted on an ongoing basis

Grant Award Amounts – For FY 2013 maximum grant amounts for available categories are listed below.

Category - CDF I/CDF II	Minimum Grant from Competitive Round:	Maximum Grant from Competitive Round:
Single Community	\$ 100,000	\$ 800,000/\$700,000
Single Community w/multiple targeted activities	\$ 100,000	\$ 900,000/\$800,000
Two or Three Communities (Regional)	\$ 100,000	\$ 1,000,000/\$900,000
Four or More Communities (Regional)	\$ 100,000	\$ 1,100,000/\$1,000,000
Planning- or Design-only grants	\$ 20,000	

TOWN OF ADAMS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FY2013

COMMUNITY PLANNING

The overall goal of the Town of Adams' Community Development Strategy is to maintain a healthy and sustainable community by fostering a diverse economic and social base. A diverse economic base consists of a broad range of jobs and types of businesses requiring a labor force of varying skills and education levels. A diverse social base consists of people of varying income levels, household compositions, and ages. The comprehensive framework of the Town's Community Development Strategy is established and further articulated by a number of key community planning efforts. The planning documents summarized below collectively identify and prioritize local needs and establish a plan of action to address these needs.

Board of Selectmen Strategic Plan: The Selectmen initiated a strategic planning process early in 2004 and later adopted the *Town of Adams Strategic Plan* (2005). The Strategic Plan sets out the Board's strategic direction and specific actions to move toward meeting broad goals for Town government. A new Board strategic planning process is expected to begin in 2013.

Community Development Plan: The Town submitted a completed Community Development Plan (CDP) in July 2004, which was subsequently approved by the Commonwealth. The Plan included housing, open space & recreation, economic development, and transportation elements. The long-term vision for growth and development in the Plan is fully consistent with the Commonwealth's Strategic Development Principles.

Downtown Development Plan: With CDBG support, the Town prepared and later adopted the *Adams Downtown Development Plan* (July 2003). The Plan is the result of a highly interactive planning process involving a broad diversity of downtown stakeholders. The Plan creates a detailed strategy to guide downtown development efforts and public and private investment, addressing housing rehabilitation, commercial revitalization, physical improvements and the elimination of blighting conditions, the creation of new housing opportunities within the downtown, and enhancements to the downtown business climate. The Town's community development program is focused on actively implementing Plan recommendations.

Gateway Revitalization Plan for the Route 8 Corridor: The Route 8 Corridor between manufacturing areas and the downtown is an important gateway area, providing a mix of residential and automobile-oriented services. The Plan recommends improving the attractiveness of the Route 8 Corridor, eliminating blighted conditions through a commercial façade improvement program, landscaping improvements, public park renovations, and residential rehabilitation efforts.

Master Plan: The Town prepared key sections of the comprehensive *Town of Adams Master Plan* (2010) that carefully analyzes land use, economic trends, housing and neighborhood conditions, transportation systems, and public facilities and services. The Plan will establish recommendations for the future and a framework for decision-making and public and private investment.

Open Space and Recreation Plan: Under the CDP program, an inventory of parks and open space within the Town was prepared, new GIS-based environmental resources and land use suitability maps were completed, and the *Adams Open Space and Recreation Plan* completed in 2003 and approved by the MA Division of Conservation Services (DCS) through 2007. The Town completed an update of the *Adams Open Space & Recreation Plan* in fall 2011 and the Plan was approved by DCS through December 2016.

Regional Plan for the Berkshires: As Berkshire Regional Planning Commission's policy plan for the region, the Plan encourages reinvestment in existing town centers throughout the Berkshires and only limited land development outside these centers. Commission staff are now undergoing a major revision of the plan.

Berkshire County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy: The Town actively participates in the Berkshire County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) process, including the submission of priority projects for consideration. Completing the CEDS in 2011, the document establishes regional economic development priorities and identifies projects considered regionally important, two of which are in Adams. The Town will participate in the regional CEDS update to be conducted in 2013.

the quality of downtown housing, particularly to make it attractive to younger households and individuals interested in rental opportunities in an active downtown area. A key element of the Town's strategy is to focus retail energy and revitalization efforts around the Armory Court area. Another important element of the strategy is directed at the elimination and prevention of slums and blighting conditions in the downtown. The Armory Court Walkway and Armory Court Park projects (completed), the Jones Block Redevelopment Project, the Downtown Façade & Signage Improvement Program (completed), the Summer Street Improvement Project (completed), and the proposed infrastructure improvements to Park Street, the Town's "Main Street," are critical downtown revitalization projects and programs. Other priority projects include renovations to the Registry of Deeds building (old Town Hall), the demolition of three severely blighted structures on the "Albert's Hardware" property to provide a small public parking lot, redevelopment of the Mausart Block, and a plan to revitalize the Winter Street area. The Downtown Target Area has been designated so as to benefit from a targeted, coordinated approach as the focus of the Town's Community Development Block Grant program.

Housing: The critical actions cited in the Town's housing plans include improving the quality of Adams' older housing stock, maintaining affordable housing, and creating more "high-end" housing to provide a more balanced community. The Adams Housing Rehabilitation Program (HRP), with CDBG as a primary funding source, continues to be central to the Town's housing strategy directed at improving the quality of affordable units without decreasing the number of affordable units overall. The HRP will be targeted to the Downtown area given the specific need for improved housing and the removal of architectural barriers within the Town center. In 2003, the Town executed an agreement with a local developer to renovate the former Plunkett Hospital into moderate-priced condominiums. The project was helpful to better understand housing creation opportunities within Adams, particularly those that may be presented by underutilized mill and/or commercial buildings. Redevelopment of the Jones Block/Armory Block buildings (currently under implementation) will create new housing opportunity in the Downtown. Other downtown properties (Hoosac Mills, Adams Memorial Middle School) and those close to the downtown (Old Stone Mill) are now under evaluation as to their reuse potential for housing. Smaller redevelopment projects, like renovations to the former "Albert's Hardware" building and redevelopment of the Mausart Block, will be especially important to retain the downtown's attractiveness as a place to live and work. Other important goals of the Town's housing initiative, as outlined in the *Adams Community Development Plan* and the *Downtown Plan* are:

- Target vacant upper floors on Park and Summer Streets for redevelopment to increase residential opportunity in the downtown;
- Enhance the accessibility of existing housing to meet the needs of the Town's elderly and disabled elderly residents;
- Work closely with owners of remaining large parcels to ensure future residential development expands housing options of high quality; and
- Support infill development in appropriate areas throughout Adams.

Community Facilities: The Town strives to plan and provide adequate community facilities to serve the needs of residents of all age groups and ensure that such facilities enhance the quality of life within Adams. Community facilities should work to create a sense of place distinct within Adams by enhancing the attractiveness of public areas, creating a pleasant pedestrian environment, and linking commercial, educational, and cultural activities throughout the community. Redevelopment of community parks/ playing fields is a high priority of the *Adams Open Space & Recreation Plan* (2011), given years of deferred improvements from severe fiscal constraints. The *Downtown Development Plan* recommends development of new small parks within the downtown to be linked to the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail and the Hoosic River Restoration Project, a project currently under evaluation by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Town integrates community facilities capital programming with its

blight by redeveloping and reinvesting in existing developed areas. Adams has maintained a distinct and compact downtown center, which contributes significantly to the Town's unique sense of place. The Strategy's Downtown Revitalization initiative works to preserve this historic fabric through on-going commercial and residential rehabilitation programs, and the promotion of compatible infill development. Projects like the proposed Park Street Improvement Project and the Hoosic Riverwalk ("Polish Mile") will enhance downtown as a pedestrian-friendly and bicycle-friendly district. The Strategy is also designed to expand housing opportunities and increase the number of residential units in the downtown by rehabilitating vacant upper floors of buildings, reusing former mill buildings that are vacant, and promoting appropriate infill, thereby conserving land. By focusing on downtown redevelopment, the Town is able to expand transportation choice and reduce residents' reliance on automobiles.

Improving the Town's existing housing stock through the proposed FY2013 *Adams Housing Rehabilitation Program* halts the deterioration of neighborhood housing stock and ensures no net loss of the Town's affordable housing supply while encouraging other investment, enhancing the quality of life of the Town's low/moderate income households and preserving affordable housing opportunities for a broad range of incomes. Preserving existing housing will reduce consumption of undeveloped land elsewhere and reduce the impacts of sprawl. The Town's housing initiatives work to conserve energy and reduce natural resource waste by using materials that meet Energy Star standards.

The Town's efforts to rebuild and diversify its economy capitalize on the potential attractiveness of the Town's existing building stock and its wealth of cultural and recreational assets. Protecting the Town's open space resources for future generations is integral to expanding the local economy and building a new tourism sector in that economy. Linking recreational assets like the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail and the trail network at Greylock Glen and the Mount Greylock State Reservation to Downtown businesses and cultural projects like Topia Arts Center and Greylock Arts on Summer Street will be critical to rebuilding the customer base of Adams' businesses. Renovating existing Town parks and open space and developing new parks in appropriate locations protects and enhances important neighborhood, environmental, and cultural resources within Adams. Through redevelopment of existing developed areas, including parks and other recreational assets, opportunities to improve water quality, stormwater quality, and riparian habitat will be maximized. Further, renovating existing public facilities uses land efficiently through reuse and preserves undeveloped land.

The Town's Community Development Strategy is consistent with the *Regional Plan for the Berkshires* (BRPC, 2001), which encourages reinvestment within established community centers.

FUNDING

Adams has tried to aggressively pursue a wider range of funding opportunities to implement the Town's community and economic development programs. Over the next 2 to 3 years, implementation of the Downtown Revitalization Program and other priority community development projects will continue to require public funds from CDBG, the MassWorks Infrastructure Program, PARC, and possibly the U.S. Economic Development Administration. CDBG funding has been instrumental in the successful implementation of the Armory Court Improvement Project, Armory Court Park, the Downtown Façade & Signage Improvement Program, and the Adams Housing Rehabilitation Program (HRP). These projects have also leveraged Town funds and significant private investment through program implementation. CDBG funds are anticipated for such important programs and projects as continuation of the Adams HRP and the proposed Park Street Infrastructure Improvement Project.

The Town has benefited from other funding programs like the Public Works Economic Development (PWED) funding to carry out efforts like the Hinge Block Parking Project (completed) that was a critical

Town of Adams

FY2013 Priority Projects

The following programs and projects are identified as priority community development projects for FY2013. Implementation of these projects will work to meet the goals and objectives of the *Adams FY2013 Community Development Strategy*.

- Park Street Improvement Project (*design completed; CDBG*)
- Adams Housing Rehabilitation Program (*currently under implementation; CDBG*)
- Kearns Lane Public Parking Project (*currently under implementation; CDBG*)
- Greylock Glen Development Project (*currently under implementation; State and Town funds*)
- “Hoosac Valley Service,” Berkshire Scenic Railway (*currently under implementation; State, local, and private funds*)
- Adams Memorial School Building Reuse Project (*currently under evaluation; Town funds*)
- Adams Free Library Renovations Project (*soon to be under design; Town funds*)
- Ashuwillticook Rail Trail Extension Project – Phases III & IV (*currently under implementation; federal funds*)
- Russell Park Renovation Project (*currently under evaluation; potential PARC and Town funds*)
- Registry of Deeds Building Renovation Project (*currently under implementation; Town funds*)
- Adams Landfill Solar PV Installation Project (*PPA executed; under implementation*)
- Commercial Street Area – Designation of New Target Area for Elimination of Slums & Blight
- Topia Arts Center (*renovation of the former “Adams Theatre”*)
- Winter Street Revitalization Plan (*design initiated; project under evaluation*)
- Town of Adams “Green Community” Designation (*currently under implementation; Town funds*)
- Downtown Business Recruitment/Retention Program
- Route 8 / Friend Street Intersection Improvement Project (*currently under implementation; federal funds*)
- Hoosic River Restoration Project (*under study; federal funds*)
- “Polish Mile” / Hoosic Riverwalk

**TOWN OF ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS
FY 2013 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM
PUBLIC HEARING
JANUARY 23, 2013 - 7:10 PM
TOWN HALL – 8 PARK STREET**

AGENDA

1. Purpose of Hearing
 - a. Brief review of Massachusetts CDBG Program
 - b. Review and discussion of Community Development Strategy FY2013
2. Recommendations of Program Activities for the FY 2013 Grant Application

a. Rehabilitation Activity

Program Delivery	\$ 41,675.00
Housing Rehabilitation	\$ 256,000.00

b. Construction Activity – Park Street Improvement Project

Program Delivery	\$ 34,535.00
Construction Rehabilitation	\$ 510,900.00

c. <u>General Administration</u> @ 6.32%	<u>\$ 56,890.00</u>
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APPLICATION TOTAL:	\$ 900,000.00
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Final application due Friday, February 15, 2013 and will be available for the public to review in the Community Development Department.