



Meeting Minutes

Rye Planning Committee

September 30, 2014, 6:00-8:00PM

Rye City Hall

Attendance: Bernie Althoff, Rye Co-Chair, Frank Gadaleta, Rex Gedney, Sara Goddard, Gregg Howells, Josh Nathan, Richard Runes, Tracy Stora, Birgit Townley, Eleanor Militana, Rye Assistant to the City Manager, Christian Miller, Rye City Planner, Suzanne Barclay, Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery, Ricardo Soto-Lopez, Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery, Alex Breinin, Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery, Leesa Forman, HGA, Jason Hellendrung, Consultant Team, Julia Carlton, Consultant Team

Agenda Item Welcome and Introductions **Presenter** Suzanne Barclay and Alex Breinin

Summary of Discussion:

Welcome and introduction of Leesa Forman of HGA, to present CDBG-DR eligibility and serve as a resource throughout the remainder of the NY Rising process and through implementation.

Decision/Motions/Votes:

N/A

Action Items	Person Responsible	Due Date
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N/A

Agenda Item CDBG-DR Eligibility **Presenter** Leesa Forman

Summary of Discussion:

HGA was contracted by NY State to implement projects that come from the NY Rising program and oversee project eligibility throughout the project proposal and selection process. HGA will assist committees in drafting projects that meet the funding criteria of the CDBG-DR program. Leesa can help the planning committee “massage” projects to fit the funding criteria. She also noted that funding cannot be used for routine maintenance or a single-use emergency response center. HGA can identify other sources of funding for projects that the committee would like to implement. Specific questions and answers include:

Q: Are solar power projects eligible? A: Yes, provided that there is money for operation and maintenance.

Q: Are projects outside of Rye eligible? A: Yes, as long as there is a paper trail for ownership/maintenance.

Q: Who determines if a project meets the eligibility criteria? HGA determines that, but will work with the committee to craft project proposals that meet the requirements.

Q: What is the time limit for spending the money? A: Two years after a project is approved, unless special exception is granted because of stalls due to complications, and progress is demonstrated. The State has coordinated with DOT, DOS, NYSERDA, and DEC to expedite permitting.

Decisions/Motions/Votes:

N/A

Action Items	Person Responsible	Due Date
N/A		

Agenda Item	Review Projects, Programs, and Actions	Presenter	Julia Carlton
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Summary of Discussion:

Presented difference between Priority, Featured, and Other Projects.

Sluice Gate Modifications – City has funded additional studies, but has not yet funded implementation. It is a high priority for the City.

Airport Retention Basin – Suggestion to add the project from the Parsons Brinckerhoff report to the project list.

Stormwater Pond at Anderson Hill Road – No additional comments

Bowman Avenue Dam Lower Pond – This project proposes draining the lower pond in advance of storms, so that the entire capacity of the lower pond can be used to capture stormwater. It was noted that this could cause flooding on adjacent properties, and would likely involve litigation.

Bowman Avenue Dam Upper Pond – The siltation occurred over the life of the project, so little regular maintenance is required if the pond is excavated and expanded.

Interstate Water Retention Policy – Capturing runoff from Interstates along the right-of-way might not be possible due to the topography, but this option should be explored where it is possible. Norwalk implemented a similar project recently at the intersection of I-95 and Rt-7.

Expand Capacity of Sanitary Sewers – Rye has very good sewers, there is some confusion as to what is causing the sewage overflow onto the streets during storms. Rye also continuously works to remove illegal sump pumps. This project does not belong as part of this list as it currently stands.

New Entrance to Rye Nature Center – This new entrance is part of a larger expensive traffic calming project on Boston Post Road. Part of this project could be paid for with CDBG-DR funds if it can be directly tied to recovery from the storms.

Systematize Pre-storm Drain Cleaning – It was noted that Rye already does this, and this project should be removed.

Have Backup Generators Available – It was noted that Rye already has backup generators. If more are required, they would need to be tied to critical facilities that participate in emergency response or storm recovery.

Milton Road Drainage to Harbor – It was noted that the drainage improvements are needed on the north side of the Milton Harbor House property, not the north side of Milton Road.

Bury, Stabilize Power Lines Along Major Corridors – If this is possible, it should piggyback on road reconstruction projects.

Form Watershed Conservancy & Green Infrastructure Program – HGA noted that CDBG-DR funding could be used to cover staff costs.

Energy Program – Could be a featured project. The Governor is promoting solar projects, and operational costs are dropping, so could be a great solution for Rye.

Enrich and Expand the Wetlands and Open Space Along Blind Brook – It was noted this should include Beaver Swamp Brook, too.

Property Elevating Program – A revolving loan fund could be used to assist property owners with elevation projects, but CDBG-DR funding cannot pay for home elevations (can pay for businesses and nonprofits, though).

Strategic Location for Fire Equipment – If funding is needed for storage space or procedures, there needs to be documentation about official procedures.

Relocate or Floodproof Locust Ave Firehouse – Noted that “Relocate” should be stricken, and Milton Firehouse should be included.

Designate a City-Operated Emergency Center – Whitby Castle was formerly used, but is now leased to a tenant. School district is willing to discuss the possible role they may play. One of the issues with a city-operated emergency center is that someone must staff it when it is in operation. The center must serve multiple uses (i.e., not emergency only) in order to be eligible for CDBG-DR funding.

Disbrow Park Improvements – First responders, DPW, and others access the DPW facility and sewage plant through the recreational fields, with many potential dangers and inefficiencies. More information to follow.

Coastal Zone Improvements – Recommended a central information source for coastal homeowners is created, as an additional coastal project.

Decisions/Motions/Votes:

Strike drain-cleaning project, restructure sanitary sewer project, restructure interstates runoff project, strike the idea of relocating the firehouse.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Due Date
Strike projects from the list as noted above	Julia	10/3/2014
Add projects from the list as noted above	Julia	10/3/2014
Provide additional information re: Disbrow Park Improvements	Eleanor	10/3/2014
Review Project descriptions	Committee	

Summary of Discussion:

Introduce the possibility of holding public engagement event #3 at an already-scheduled event in Rye to increase turnout/responses. Committee members suggested the Halloween Window Painting event downtown on October 19th. Outreach to the school board and the city council should continue to be discussed. A presentation before either group would run on loop on the local television channel. A survey monkey or other online feedback tool would allow community members unable to attend the public engagement event to give feedback online.

Decision/Motions/Votes:

Action Items	Person Responsible	Due Date
Determine possibility of Window Painting Public Engagement	Suzanne	As available
