

Blight and Brownfields Committee Meeting
January 15, 2014 - 12:00 P.M.
Council Chambers City Hall
142 East Main Street, Meriden, CT

Meeting Summary

In attendance were:

Juliet Burdelski, City of Meriden
Bob Bass, City of Meriden
Amy Vaillancourt, Tighe & Bond
John Bondos, AECOM
Michael Taylor, Vita Nuova
Florence Villano, City of Meriden
Gioia Connell, Vita Nuova
Holly Wills, Council of Neighborhoods
Maryellen Mordarski, Dutch Hill Assoc. & Resident
Thomas Skoglund, City Planning
Chris McGoldrick, City Intern
Scott Bryden, City Health Dept.
Jing Chen, DEEP
David Ringquist, DEEP
Elaine Richardson, Vita Nuova
Larry Kendzior, City of Meriden
Dan Brechlin, Record-Journal
Sean W. Moore, Greater Meriden Chamber

Items Discussed:

Status of 116 Cook Ave Clean up Project.

Tighe & Bond has been retained by the City to be the Licensed Environmental Professional on the project. Amy Vaillancourt reported that Tighe & Bond has submitted the final draft "Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives" ("ABCA") to EPA as required. The City is waiting for any final comments from EPA staff Kathy Castagna. After the ABCA is completed, the City and Tighe and Bond will submit the "Environmental Condition Assessment Form" ("ECAAF") to CT DEEP. This will enter the 116 Cook Ave. into the state's voluntary remediation program. Before cleanup work can commence, the City will issue a public notice regarding the proposed cleanup action and Tighe and Bond will complete the bid specifications for the cleanup work for the City's use. City staff expects the project to be bid out in late spring.

Status of HUB/50 East Main Remediation/Flood Control/Park Project

Bob Bass reported that the construction of the HUB project is now underway. AECOM has been retained by the City to be the Licensed Environmental Professional on the project. John Bondos explained that the ABCA and public notice for the 50 East Main cleanup project was already submitted as a part of the larger HUB project and therefore cleanup can begin immediately. (50 East Main is the southeast corner of the HUB site at Pratt and East Main Streets.)

Vita Nuova has been retained by the City to create and help implement the Community Relations Plan (CRP), which is also an EPA requirement. A kick-off meeting with EPA is scheduled for January 30, 2014.

USEPA Grant Applications

Mike Taylor summarized to two USEPA grant applications that will be submitted by the City. The first is a community wide brownfields assessment grant application that seeks federal funding for environmental site assessments, for site reuse planning, and community outreach. The project, if funded, would allow the City to follow up on the recommendations made by six neighborhood groups as part of the healthy neighborhood workshop initiative in 2010-2011.

The second grant is a site specific brownfields assessment grant that seeks federal funding for environmental site assessments at 1 King Place, the former Meriden Wallingford hospital site that is now City-owned. The project, if funded, would also allow the City to complete environmental site assessments and recommendations for future use of the former hospital site.

Holly Wills said that she would be happy to pass along information on the grant applications or brownfields activities to the Council of Neighborhood Associations.

Blight Ordinance Update

Thomas Skoglund reported that 194 Grove Street has been removed from the blight list. Four blighted properties being monitored include 2 Maloney Ave., 140 Grove Street, 87 Windsor and (??) Grove Street.

Catalog of Environmental Reports

Chris McGoldrick reported that he has been compiling a list of environmental reports completed by the City to date. The list will be completed for review at the next meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, March 13, 2014.

Meeting Adjourned at approximately 1 PM.

Meeting summary prepared by Juliet Burdelski, Dir. Ec. Development.