

# TOWN OF HAMDEN

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING

JANUARY 11, 2011  
KEEFE COMMUNITY CENTER  
LOUNGE  
11 PINE STREET  
HAMDEN

**Commissioners in Attendance:** Joyce Blandon, Chairwoman  
Michael Brooks  
Peter Curtis  
Alexis Highsmith  
Janet Lyons  
Michael McGarry  
Robert Werner

**Others in Attendance:** Chris Marchand, Program Manager  
Peggy Craft, Clerk of the Commission

### CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Blandon called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM.

Ms. Blandon has received a message from Commissioner Lyons stating that she will need another five months leave of absence due to the scheduling of a class she is attending.

There was a discussion regarding how a leave of absence affects a Commission quorum. Mr. Marchand said that HUD would still recognize a meeting with a number of Commissioners in attendance.

### MINUTES

**Commissioner McGarry motioned to approve the Minutes of the September Meeting as presented. Commissioner Werner seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

### PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Marchand provided the following information to the Commission:

#### Rehabilitation Program

There are three rehabilitation projects in active phases. They are:

32 Hobson Avenue – Traditional Rehab-Lead Abatement - \$10,750.00  
113 First Street – Emergency Roof - \$4,200.00  
47-49 Gorham Avenue – Lead Abatement - \$15,900.00

This completes the list. There will be no further funding for these types of projects until July. There will be money available for furnace rehabs.

Next, Mr. Marchand discussed the 30% cut in Block Grant funds. The Block Grant amount for the next Program Year will be \$349,000. This is the lowest Block Grant amount in the State. Due to this cut in funding, there will only be \$52,000 available for Public Service Agency Grants. Mr. Marchand is looking into other towns that have not been cut as much, however, he is not sure what would be the recourse if an error were found. He added that during the PSA discussions the decision would have to be made regarding what agency grants to cut. The Commissioners discussed how this could be handled.

Mr. Marchand said the vendor doing furnace rehab/replacements has not submitted invoices for the work that has been completed. He said there would be five or six furnace projects reported as complete in next month's report.

### **Completed Projects**

Mr. Marchand reported that the Housing Authority project to replace the doors of the units at the Hamden Village complex has been completed. The amount of this project was \$25,000.00. There was also a lead abatement project completed at 65 Third Street in the amount of \$11,700.00.

### **Down Payment Assistance**

There were no Down Payment Assistance applications completed during the last month. There is one scheduled on January 20<sup>th</sup>. If there are none in the future, we will be able to transfer funds to provide money for furnace repair and replacement.

### **Fair Rent**

There have been no new complaints received, and no mediation or hearings have been scheduled.

### **Infrastructure/Commercial Rehabilitation Program**

The Dixwell Avenue Streetscape was started and two sections have been completed. The project is currently on hold.

There was a discussion regarding the building at the corner of Mather and Dixwell Avenue. The building has been rehabilitated and will now house a florist type business.

An Auto Repair business at 880 Dixwell Avenue has submitted an application for a sign.

The Cherry Ann Street sidewalks have been completed. This completes the infrastructure work.

The State has not responded regarding the \$750,000 Flex Grant. Mr. Marchand said he was told that we should hear from the State during January.

Next, Mr. Marchand reported that HOME funds were slashed 38%.

The ADA compliance projects at the libraries have not been started yet. Funding is in place, and the bid has been awarded. This should be started soon.

Mr. Curtis asked if there are provisions in the RFPs or bid documents stating that local vendors must be used. He feels this should be in these documents.

### **PUBLIC SERVICE AGENCY GRANTS**

The applications for Public Service Agency Grants are due by January 27, 2012. Mr. Marchand discussed the scheduling of the sub-committee interviews. He said the Commission needs to appoint the sub-committee, and discuss the criteria to be used.

There was a discussion regarding who would serve on the sub-committee. Commissioners Werner, Curtis and Highsmith will serve on the sub-committee. Mr. Marchand and Ms. Bandon will also attend the interviews. Mr. Brooks will try to attend also. There was a discussion regarding the criteria to be used in the interviews.

Ms. Highsmith asked how the agencies are informed about the grants. Mr. Marchand explained that there is an ad placed in the local newspaper. Packets are also sent out to the agencies that have applied in the past.

Next, there was a discussion regarding the scheduling of the meetings. The meetings will be held on:

Tuesday, February 7, 2012, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM  
Wednesday, February 8, 2012, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM  
Thursday, February 9, 2012, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business to come before the Commission.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Curtis discussed courses he will be teaching at Gateway Community College. He also discussed a project he is involved with entitled Heroes Village. This project is intended to build 30,000 to 50,000 homes for veterans.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There was no further business to come before the Commission and Chairman Bandon called for a motion to adjourn. **Commissioner McGarry motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Werner and passed unanimously.** Chairman Bandon adjourned the meeting at 6:54 PM.

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Peggy Craft, Clerk of the Commission