

State of Vermont
Department of Housing and Community Development
Deane C. Davis Building – 6th Floor [phone] 802-828-3211
One National Life Drive
Montpelier, VT 05620-0501

*Agency of Commerce and
Community Development*

September 15, 2020

Nanette Rogers, Town Administrator
Westford Vermont
1713 Vermont Route 128
Westford, VT 05494

RE: **Town of Westford; ENV-2020-Westford-001; 07110-PG-2020-Westford-01**
Notice of Release of Funds: 1705 VT Route 128 - Predevelopment and Planning

Dear Nanette,

This letter is to notify you that we received the Certification of Exempt Activities and Request for Release of Funds on September 14, 2020 for the above-referenced Environmental Review (ER) for a U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) administered through the Department of Housing and Community Development of the Agency of Commerce and Community Development (the Agency). As of September 15, 2020, the Environmental Release for the project is effective. Any change in project activities must be reviewed by the Town to determine if there is a need for a new Environmental Review.

Any activities performed prior to the execution of the Grant Agreement are performed at the municipality's risk. In the event that the Grant Agreement does not become effective, the Agency will be under no obligation to pay for costs incurred in connection with program activities. Should a Grant Agreement between the Agency and your municipality be executed, you may begin to requisition funds, provided the Town has met all the requirements and Special Conditions of the Grant Agreement that impact the requisition process. This letter states that the ER requirement has been met as long as your project activities do not change.

The project location and potential future activities have been identified by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation as having a potential for architectural and archeological historic properties to be affected. **Therefore, in order to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, a qualified Architectural Historian and a qualified Archeological Consultant will likely be required for this project. Please see Vermont Community Development Program pre-approved list of archeological and architectural consultants at:**

https://accd.vermont.gov/sites/accdnew/files/documents/Vermont%20Community%20Development%20Approved%20Consultants%202019-2020_1.pdf. Incorporating archeological investigation early on will assist with the creation of the building design prior to any physical activities taking place and must be a part of the planning activities of this grant.

The project involves identifying options for the location of a subdivision. The potential options for location need to be reviewed by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation (DHP) to allow for a preliminary review of the potential for historic resources to be affected at sites being considered for potential, future implementation (archaeology specific: archeological sensitivity of potential relocation



sites). The determination provided should be considered in evaluating the feasibility of each site proposed/investigated for location. This review from DHP will be provided by the grantee completing and submitting a Vermont Community Development Program (VCDP) Section 106 Preliminary Review Form for each proposed relocation site. Completed review forms with DHP determination, *must* be uploaded to the Environmental Review Record in the State's Online Grants Management System.

Please note, implementation activities that fall within in the scope of planning that is being fulfilled by this project cannot commence (with any funding source) until the Vermont Community Development Program (VCDP) receives the project work product (as defined in the Grant Agreement). If the planning work from this project results in implementation that will be funded exclusively with other resources, implementation can be initiated at any time after the work product has been received by VCDP. If CDBG (or any other HUD funding) is being pursued for implementation of the project, a separate ER will need to be completed and corresponding release received, prior to the initiation of implementation activities.

In addition, please be aware that this Release of Funds does not relieve the Municipal Authorizing Official or designee of responsibilities required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Be sure to file this letter with your other Environmental Review documents. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Brady', written over a circular scribble.

James Brady
Environmental Officer

Enclosure: Vermont Community Development Approved Consultants List

cc: Ann Karlene Kroll, Director of Grants Management, ACCD
Patrick Scheld, Community Development Specialist, ACCD