



TOWN OF GRAFTON
GRAFTON MEMORIAL MUNICIPAL CENTER
30 PROVIDENCE ROAD
GRAFTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01519
(508) 839-5335 ext. 1120 • FAX (508) 839-4602
planningdept@grafton-ma.gov
www.grafton-ma.gov

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Town of Grafton Planning Board
FROM: Fiona Coughlan, Town Planner
CC: Natalia Alward, Planning Assistant (via email)
DATE: February 9, 2023
SUBJECT: Community One Stop for Growth Expression of Interest

This memorandum has been prepared as part of the meeting materials for the February 13, 2023, Planning Board meeting. It serves as a notification for the Board regarding submission of an Expression of Interest for the Community One Stop for Growth state grant portal.

STAFF ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Town Planner is planning to submit an Expression of Interest short form for up to two projects to receive feedback and guidance on priority projects before submitting a full One Stop application to the state. The Expression of Interest will close on March 17, 2023. Please note, an Expression of Interest is not a substitute for a grant application. For the FY24 Round, the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development, Department of Housing and Community Development, and MassDevelopment are offering twelve programs administered through the Community One Stop for Growth:

Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development

- MassWorks Infrastructure Program
- Urban Agenda Grant Program

Department of Housing and Community Development

- Housing Choice Grant Program
- Massachusetts Downtown Initiative
- Community Planning Grant Program
- Rural and Small-Town Development Fund

MassDevelopment

- Brownfields Redevelopment Fund
- Site Readiness Program
- Underutilized Properties Program
- Collaborative Workspace Program
- Real Estate Services Technical Assistance
- Commonwealth Places Programs

Some options to consider for the Town include:

- A Commonwealth Places grant for the 5 Mill Street Park project or improvements to Perry Hill Park (LRRP Action Items)



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- A Community Planning Grant Program for development of the Worcester to Providence bikeway (OSRP Action Item) or the Blackstone Bike Corridor (in coordination with CMRPC).
- A MA Downtown Initiative grant to revisit design guidelines reflect most up- to date recommendations of the BVHC, the Historic Commission, and other local/regional organizations (OSRP Action Item) and improving wayfinding/signage (Town Administrator suggestion).

The full application submission period is open from May 2023-June 2, 2023. Notification of Award is in October/November of 2023, and contracting is anticipated in November/December of 2023. Please let the Town Planner know if you are interested in pursuing a particular project as soon as possible.

Thank you.

Fiona Coughlan