

TOWN OF CONCORD PUBLIC HEARING
Re: Community Development Block Grant

October 8, 2020
6:30 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED BY CLYDE M. DRAKE, SUPERVISOR

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: CLYDE M. DRAKE, SUPERVISOR
JAMES M. KREZMIEN, COUNCILMAN
KENNETH D. ZITTEL, COUNCILMAN
WILLIAM F. SNYDER, III, COUNCILMAN
PHILIP DROZD, COUNCILMAN

ALSO PRESENT: DARLENE G. SCHWEIKERT, Town Clerk
BARRY A. EDWARDS, Hwy Supt
BRIAN F. ATTEA, Town Attorney
CAROLYN ROBINSON, Dog Control Officer
JEFF SINGLETON, Code Enforcement Officer

MAX BORSUK, Springville Journal
DEVIN KOWALSKE
DOLF BONENBERGER
REED BRAMAN
GEORGE DONHAUSER

JOSHUA WHITE
LILLIAN KOWALSKE-WHITE
RICHARD WELLS
SETH WOCHENSKY

Supervisor Drake opened the hearing at 6:30 p.m. Town Clerk Schweikert had published the Notice of Public Hearing in the Springville Times on September 17, 2020. The Public Hearing Notice was posted on the signboard at the Town Hall and on the Town's website: townofconcordny.com on September 11, 2020.

Supervisor Drake asked those in attendance if anyone had any comments. Dolf Bonenberger addressed the Board; he is on the Board of Directors of the Springville Field & Stream. They have taken on the challenge to renovate the Trout Pond on North Street. There have been a number of fundraisers and have been very successful but they have not reached their goal for the amount of funds that they would need. Specifically, their interest with the Community Development Block Grant program is to fund the fishing access pier to be ADA compliant. It would consist of a concrete tide wall, a deck and it would provide handicap access from the handicap access parking lot in that area at the south end of pond. There would be a small pavilion would also be there for shelter. That is part of the project; the rest of the project includes dredging of the pond, and an education building. The main focus would be on the handicap access fishing area. Supervisor Drake advised that this is a federal program that is administered through the County and it is income driven. There is only one section of the Village that qualifies. The Town itself does not qualify for anything like that. Supervisor Drake had been advised by Paul DiOrlando who administers this program for Erie County that the only type of grant that the Town could put into this application is senior activities. Mr. Bonenberger noted that he was not aware of that information. Supervisor Drake wished the Field & Stream luck with their project. Reed Braman noted that it everyone uses the pond and is open to the public. Supervisor Drake noted that he can certainly check with Erie County to see if it is something that can be part of the CDBG program. Mr. Bonenberger noted that it is certainly a facility that seniors would be able to use. Councilman Snyder asked if the Field & Stream had an amount that they were looking for to close the gap; Mr. Bonenberger replied about \$50,000.00. Mr. Braman added that any dollar amount would be appreciated. Supervisor Drake obtained Mr. Bonenberger's contact information so he could let him know what the answer is. Mr. Bonenberger introduced Richard Wells, the President of the Field & Stream. Mr. Wells advised that a slant on this would be that they could take senior citizens/handicapped seniors out of the nursing homes for fishing; this had been done in the past. Supervisor Drake will check into this and advise. Supervisor Drake noted that one extra thing was added to the CDBG

this year and that was projects related to COVID. Mr. Bonenberger noted that it is a good place to go when there is nowhere else to go.

Seth Wochensky addressed the Board. Mr. Wochensky is on the Board of Green Springville and the Skate Park Committee. He was not sure of the funding particulars but he wanted to put the Skate Park project up for consideration but based on what was said, it might be a little bit of a stretch. Mr. Wochensky advised the Board that they did receive a matching grant from the Tony Hawk Foundation; it's up to \$250,000 in matching funds. The Village has a couple of grants that are probably going to apply towards the project. They have been doing community fundraising so if, in the future, there is an opportunity for something like this to apply, it is a good way to get some mileage. The project is used by a lot of different kids but obviously doesn't sound like a match for this grant. Mr. Wochensky added that he very much supports the Trout Pond project as well. He does not know what else is being considered but he would love the Town to look at the bathroom facilities at Community Park. If that could be made more senior-friendly or having them handicap; a re-do of those facilities up there would really be amenity to that park. Supervisor Drake advised that the Town did get a grant for \$150,000 to re-do the snack shack and that does include bathrooms. The Town is caught in a catch 22 now because the lumber prices have skyrocketed. The Town is hopeful that there will progress on that project this Fall but probably the actual building would not be done until early next year. Mr. Wochensky said that this great.

Supervisor Drake asked if anyone else wanted to address the Board and there were no other comments. Supervisor Drake advised that last year the Town turned in a project and it was not chosen; to pave the parking lot at the senior center. It looks pretty good up there but it was never really a paved surface; it was just millings. After being plowed for the last few years, there are now all sorts of divots and the walking surface is not the best for seniors. Councilman Drozd said that the fire hall just went through this because it was in total disrepair and they had to start at square one; he is hopeful that the Town can catch this before it gets to that point of no return.

Supervisor Drake advised that that doesn't mean that if the Field & Stream project qualifies, it can't be added. The projects need to be ranked by the Town on the application. Normally the Town has to include the Rural Transit Van; the Town just received a new van this year. At this time, it is not being utilized because we need drivers. The decision was made that anyone over the age of 70 could not drive. This program has not yet gotten up to speed yet because of COVID but this is an active transportation source for the community. Concord has their own van and that van goes to the city and that van can't handle the load.

The Public Hearing remained open until 6:45 p.m. No one else addressed the Board.

Motion by Councilman Krezmien, seconded by Councilman Zittel, to close the hearing at 6:45 p.m. Councilmen Krezmien, Zittel, Snyder & Drozd; Supervisor Drake, voting aye. Carried.



Darlene G. Schweikert
Town Clerk