

Beach Committee Report

12-14-2022

The Beach Committee has not met since Sept. 21, primarily due to scheduling conflicts. In the interim, I have been working to get assistance from Hilltown Community Development Corp. (HCDC), and Berkshire Regional Planning (BRPC) with the funding/grant writing for our proposed project. I have explained the background on the beach, need for rehab, and the 3 phases I have discussed previously (beach/pavilion, shoreline development / erosion control along road, fishing access). We have a committee meeting planned on Jan 4 at 6pm at Town Hall with Bob Graves (if he can make it), Dave Christopolis from HCDC and Karen Peltó from BRPC (waiting for confirmation). Dave and Karen will present to us on what they have to offer, and we will have a discussion and possibly a vote on hiring them. Dave and Karen have worked together on other projects in the past.

Dave Christopolis offered to work with us on our grant application using the One Stop for Growth portal to solicit grants from various State agencies. The next round of funding will kick off early next year, which is great timing for us. We will also be discussing soliciting donations, and has offered to support that effort with some tax credits that he can distribute to donors. These would be a 50% match. He offered to do some pro-bono work for us, and can help administer the grants for a fee, which will be discussed at the upcoming meeting.

Karen Peltó is with Berkshire Funding Focus, which is an offshoot of BRPC. She has offered to work with us, free of charge, on our grant application(s) through the Ma Office of Outdoor Rec., and other agencies. This will possibly include State assistance on design work for improved fishing access and safety (phase 3).

Given my own time constraints, I would like to split our committee into 2 working groups, one for grant writing and fundraising, the other for construction planning and design. Ideally, this would allow each team to make progress in between meetings. I have reached out to the Division on Open Government for advice on how to split the committee, and still maintain compliance with OML.

I will update the SB after our next meeting.

David Stuart

Bob Reported
for Dave