

**Meeting Agenda
State College Borough
CDBG Citizens' Advisory Committee
September 1, 2020
Virtual Meeting / Noon**

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Roll Call**
- III. Approval of Minutes**
- IV. Chair Report**
- V. Public Hour - Hearing of Citizens**
- VI. Review of CDBG-Funded Capital Improvement Projects 2021-2025**
- VII. Homelessness and Affordable Housing in State College**
- VIII. Upcoming Meeting(s)**
- IX. Adjournment**

Documents:

[Complete CDBG Citizens Advisory Committee Agenda - September 1, 2020.pdf](#)

**Meeting Agenda
State College Borough
CDBG/Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC)
September 1, 2020
Virtual Meeting / Noon**

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

Selden Smith, Chair
David Gaines, Vice-Chair
Ian Boswell
Alexis Burke
Jason Olcese
Marcia Patterson
Bruce Quigley

III. Approval of Minutes – August 18, 2020

IV. Chair Report

V. Public Hour - Hearing of Citizens

VI. Review of CDBG-Funded Capital Improvement Projects 2021-2025

Traditionally, State College Borough budgets roughly half of its annual CDBG allocation for public facilities activities such as street reconstruction, streetlight replacements, recreation or similar projects. Staff of the Public Works Department and the Planning Department collaborated to recommend the allocation of CDBG funds for public facilities projects over the next five years.

Attached: Capital Improvement Projects Plan 2021-2025

Action Needed: No action required - review and discuss

VII. Homelessness and Affordable Housing in State College

As the CAC has identified a community need and has received repeated requests for a permanent shelter for a homeless population that is not entirely served by other shelters operating in State College Borough, staff will lead a conversation to explore how to support the community's housing services network to find a sustainable solution through CDBG Program eligible activities.

VIII. Upcoming Meeting

Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at Noon

IX. Adjournment

**Meeting Minutes
State College Borough
CDBG/Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC)
August 18, 2020
Virtual Meeting**

The State College Borough (SCB) Community Development Block Grant/Citizens' Advisory Committee (CDBG/CAC) virtual Zoom meeting was called to order by Selden Smith, Chair, on Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at 12:03 p.m.

Members Present

Selden Smith, Chair; Ian Boswell; David Gaines, Vice-Chair; Jason Olcese; and Marcia Patterson

Members Absent

Alexis Burke and Bruce Quigley

Others Present

Maureen H. Safko, Senior Planner; Isabel Storey, Senior Planner; Denise L. Rhoads, Administrative Assistant; Sarah Potter, Out of the Cold (OOTC); Linda Barton, volunteer English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher; and Mark Huncik, Redevelopment Authority (RDA) member and Highlands Civic Association President

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Gaines and seconded by Mr. Olcese to approve the August 4, 2020 minutes as submitted. The vote was unanimously in favor.

Chair Report

Selden Smith, Chair, noted there was a discussion last time on having someone from the Public Works Department to talk about fees, etc. Due to their busy schedules and being short staffed they were not able to attend at this time.

Public Hour

No one from the public wanted to discuss items not on the agenda.

Public Hearing on Housing & Community Development Needs and Proposed Strategies for Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing

Mr. Smith asked Ms. Potter to share the letter she emailed to staff.

Ms. Potter stated OOTC wanted to thank the SCB for their help and collaboration with the homelessness issue. OOTC was requesting funds for a down payment for a more permanent homeless shelter which would allow them to better manage and care for the homeless population. She noted numbers were currently doubled from what had been the norm. OOTC was supporting nine high risk guests in local hotel rooms, and five person who were homeless but chose not to come into shelter. Ms. Potter noted OOTC anticipated the numbers would continue to grow in the months ahead. She stated the volunteer pool had decreased and as well as help from local churches. She stated OOTC was very thankful for the CDBG-CV funds that helped considerably.

CAC Comments

- Mr. Smith asked what perimeter boundary would be most helpful when looking for a location to build. Ms. Potter stated the main issue was good and easy access.
- Mr. Olcese asked if anyone was actively looking at properties. Ms. Potter stated the OOTC board was starting to look for properties. Mr. Olcese asked what the price of the down payment they were looking for and Ms. Potter stated it was too early in the process to determine this.

Ms. Barton asked what staff needed from her. Ms. Safko noted this needs hearing was to make comments/suggestions in preparation for the 2021 Consolidated Annual Action Plan (CAAP). Ms. Barton gave a brief overview of her grassroots organization. She noted they also raised funds for food, medical expenses, and donated bicycles for those who needed transportation to work. She noted, currently, they had 20 families in the program

Ms. Safko asked Ms. Barton asked about the geographic area of the families. Ms. Barton stated they were from the Easterly Parkway/Marvin Gardens area, Boalsburg, Lemont and some on Martin Street. Ms. Safko stated the efforts of Ms. Barton and other teachers was one of the success stories and was a real showcase of compassion, hard work and what could be done as a community.

Ms. Safko's brief overview of CDBG Program Information for the 2021 CAAP included:

- The program must benefit low- and moderate-income levels that were less than 80 percent of Area Median Income (AMI); can be done using Census data, any activities that benefit elderly, homeless, and any other disproportionate group,
- Eligible Activities: 1) public service agencies: 2) public facilities, 3) housing rehabilitation, and 4) historic preservation to name a few,
- SCB must always be conscious of Fair Housing legislation and look at the community to see what the barriers for the disproportionately were.
- Any activity performed must not displace any anyone.
- All activities needed to procure services with Minority Business Enterprise/Women Business Enterprise, and
- Matching CDBG and HOME funds would not be required.

Ms. Safko then discussed the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) 5-year plan 2020-2024 which included:

- She noted there were some changes to the plan since March 2020 and noted the Public Works Director position was vacant and collaboration had not been done since March.

Ms. Safko shared some items that could be done to update this plan:

- 2020 - Streetlights east end of Beaver Avenue – these funds were utilized for rents, utilities, etc. because of COVID 19 needs;
- 2020 - \$11,000 from the General Fund could be paired with CDBG existing funds for revamping our parking structure;
- 2023 - Streetlights/curb cuts on Pugh Street (Beaver Avenue to Nittany Avenue.);
- 2024 - Implement parts of the west end neighborhood to improve that area of town and;
- 2025 - more pedestrian improvements.

Ms. Safko noted Public Works staff had not had much time for discussion on these projects due to COVID and many other projects in the works.

She noted there was nothing new presented, just a shifting of when these projects would move forward.

CAC comments

- Mr. Boswell noted it would be worthwhile to consider streetlight projects that would utilize softer lighting and suggested the need for the homeless population should be more important than the need for replacement streetlights.
- Mr. Olcese stated he appreciated the improvements to the streetlights, however, he agreed with Mr. Boswell the money could be better spent in helping our homeless community.

The general consensus was the topic needed further discussion. Ms. Safko stated staff/members could pull information from other peer communities to see what the SCB could model after.

Public Comment

- Mr. Huncik noted member could reach out to the RDA. He reminded members about the Sunshine Law with regard to a discussion outside of a meeting forum.

Upcoming Meeting

The next scheduled virtual meeting would be Tuesday, September 1, 2020 at Noon.

Adjournment

With no further business, Mr. Gaines made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:01 p.m. and Mr. Olcese seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise L. Rhoads
Administrative Assistant

CDBG Capital Improvement Projects 2021-2025

2021 Total of CDBG Funded CIP Projects \$250,000

1. 2020-2021 Infrastructure Project: Streetlights Beaver Avenue (from Garner St to Hetzel St)

- Replacement of approximately 27 streetlights, 1 foundation, and 11 curb ramps. The activity may require additional funds to be identified prior to submittal of the final FY 2021 Annual Action Plan scheduled to be submitted to HUD around May of 2021.

2022 Total of CDBG Funded CIP Projects \$250,000

2. 2022 Infrastructure Project: Park Accessibility Improvements and Rehabilitation

- Evaluate and remove architectural barriers to accessibility at rest facilities and other areas in existing parks and recreational facilities in various Borough-owned parks.

Borough PK200 Park Acquisition / Improvements	\$11,000
FY 2022 CDBG	<u>120,000</u>
	\$131,000

3. 2023 Scattered Site Pedestrian Safety Project \$130,000

- Streetlight Installation, Pedestrian Safety Signage and Traffic Calming Improvements at high priority locations identified through consultation with the State College Police Department and community input.

2023 Total of CDBG Funded CIP Projects \$250,000

4. Shared Use Path and Pedestrian Safety Improvements - \$250,000

- Construction of a shared use paths to connect Orchard Pak to the new Whitehall Regional Park that is being developed. Construction of a shared use path to connect Waupelani Drive and the schools to High Point Park where the new Action Park is being developed. Pedestrian safety improvements as well as transportation justice will be considered prominently in the design of the improvements. Additional funding sources would be identified to provide a more robust budget.

2024 Total of CDBG Funded CIP Projects \$250,000

5. Streetscape Improvements

- A plan for West End Neighborhood Streetscape Improvements to be developed in consultation with the neighborhood, which may include lighting, plantings, curb adjustments, etc. designed to improve pedestrian safety and enhance the western gateway to the Borough.

2025 Total of CDBG Funded CIP Projects \$250,000

6. Street Light & Curb Ramp Replacements \$250,000

- 18 new lights on Pugh Street between Beaver Avenue and Nittany Avenue, curb ramp replacements as needed and pedestrian safety improvements.