

TOWN OF NEWTON PLAN ENDORSEMENT



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CENTER DESIGNATION



- Newton was the 1st Regional Center in the State of New Jersey.
- Designated on September 23, 1993.
- Grants were and are a major incentive for pursuing Center Designation.
- Town of Newton Center Designation expired January 7, 2008.

WHY PURSUE PLAN ENDORSEMENT?



- ◉ Ensures that your municipality is in compliance with the State Plan.
- ◉ Allows for further grant opportunities.
- ◉ Support from Office of Smart Growth (OSG) with other State Agencies to accomplish Plan Endorsement.
- ◉ Municipality begins to establish visioning and planning for future growth.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES RELATED TO PLAN ENDORSEMENT



- Town of Newton received a \$25,000 grant for a Vision Plan.
- Received a \$50,000 grant towards redevelopment plans to begin the establishment of design criteria.
- Received a \$60,000 grant towards circulation plan, which will amend our Master Plan upon completion.

PRE-PETITION MEETING



- Meeting was held on August 21, 2007.
- Office of Smart Growth gave the Town a work sheet with the items that needed to be completed for plan endorsement.
- This meeting gave the opportunity for Newton to explain redevelopment and where future growth was envisioned for the Town.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE



- The Town formed the Advisory Committee for Plan Endorsement. This is a requirement by OSG.
- Members of the committee consisted of two citizens at large, Mayor, Planning Board Chairwoman, Historic Commission Chairwoman, Town Manager, Community Development Director, Town Planner, Town Engineer, and County Planner.

MUNICIPAL SELF ASSESSMENT



- Municipal Self Assessment allows the Municipality to determine consistency with State Plan.
- The Town of Newton hired the Town Planner Jessica Caldwell, PP, to complete the Municipal Self Assessment.
- The cost to complete the municipal self assessment was estimated to be \$12,000.
- Total cost spent by the Town was \$10,746.

CONSISTENCY REVIEW



- ◉ Newton received comments on the consistency review and Municipal Self Assessment from OSG on August 22, 2008.

- ◉ Consistency determination consisted of a 15 page letter detailing issues that needed to be addressed by the Town of Newton.

- ◉ Action Plan and MOU was received on September 10, 2008.
 - Action Plan contained items that need to be made consistent for Plan Endorsement.
 - MOU which stands for a Memorandum of Understanding has not be executed.

STATUS OF PLAN ENDORSEMENT



- Currently Newton is working with OSG to negotiate the Action Plan.
- At this point OSG is working on addressing issues that were raised by the Town in response to the Action Plan.
- OSG has been very supportive of the Town of Newton's efforts for Plan Endorsement.

FINAL COMMENTS



- The process for plan endorsement is not immediate, however, the ability to meet with various state agencies has been helpful to the Town of Newton.
- Utilize the staff at OSG to help guide your municipality through the process.
- Everyone at OSG has been receptive to the Town of Newton's needs and future aspirations.
- It is the Town of Newton's goal to have the Action Plan executed and an MOU signed before the end of the year to regain the Town's status as a center.

THANK YOU

ANY QUESTIONS?



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