

**COMBINED NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND
NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS
STATE OF VERMONT**

July 15, 2021
Town of Bristol, Valerie Capels
Firehouse Drive,
Bristol, VT 05443
(802) 453-2410 x1

Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development
Josh Hanford, Commissioner of VT Department of Housing and Community Development
One National Life Drive, Davis Building, 6th Floor
Montpelier, VT 05620
802-828-1357

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the Town of Bristol and the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development (the Agency).

Request for Release of Funds

On or about July 31, 2021 the Town of Bristol will submit a request to the Agency to release Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (PL93-383), the National Affordable Housing Act, as amended; and the Agency will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) to release HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME) funds under Title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, as amended, to undertake a project known as Firehouse Apartments for the purpose of providing 20 affordable housing units to meet the needs of Bristol's population. The project includes three buildings, parking lots walkways, utility connections, septic system and stormwater control system. The project is located at Firehouse Drive in Bristol, VT. The total estimated cost of the project is \$6,547,500 with approximately \$535,000 in CDBG funding, and \$520,000 in HOME funding. Section 8 project based vouchers will also be pursued.

To maintain compliance with HUD environmental regulations, the buildings will be constructed using radon resistance construction and activation of passive radon system if warranted; relocating the 300 gallon diesel aboveground storage tank at the adjacent fire station or replacing with a compliant tank; removing trees of 3 inches or larger outside the restricted time (April 1 to October 31) to avoid potential taking of endangered bat species; and avoiding archaeologically sensitive areas of the site during site development.

Finding of No Significant Impact

The Town of Bristol and the Agency have determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the municipal office of the Town of Bristol at 1 South St, Bristol, VT 05443, and may be examined or copied Monday through Thursday from 8am-4:30pm, or at the Agency at One National Life Drive, Davis Building, 6th Floor, Montpelier, VT 05620, and may be examined or copied Monday through Friday from 7:45AM to 4:30PM.

Public Comments

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Town of Bristol regarding the use of CDBG funds, Attn: Valerie Capels, Town Administrator, 1 South St, Bristol, VT 05443, or to the Agency for the use of HOME funds, Attn: Environmental Officer, Department of Housing and Community Development, One National Life Drive, Davis Building, 6th floor, Montpelier, Vermont 05620. All comments received by July 30, 2021, will be considered by the Town of Bristol and the Agency prior to authorizing the submission of a request for release of funds. Comments must specify which Notice they are addressing- the Finding of No Significant Impact or the Request for the Release of Funds.

Environmental Certification

The Town of Bristol is certifying to the Agency that the Town of Bristol and Valerie Capels in her official capacity as Town Administrator, and the Agency is certifying to HUD that the Agency and Josh Hanford in his official capacity as Commissioner of the VT Department of Housing and Community Development, consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The Agency's/HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act and related laws and authorities and allows the Town of Bristol to use CDBG funds and the Agency to use HOME funds.

Objections to Release of Funds

The Agency will accept objections to its approval of the release of funds and acceptance of the Town of Bristol's certification, and HUD will accept objections to its approval of the release of funds and the State's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officers, Valerie Capels and Josh Hanford,; (b) the Town/Agency has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by the Agency/HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality.

Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, Department of Housing and Community Development, Attn: Environmental Officer, One National Life Drive, Davis Building, 6th Floor, Montpelier, Vermont 05620-0501, or via email at James.Brady@vermont.gov, for CDBG funds, or to the US Department of HUD – Boston Field Office, Community Planning and Development, via email at CPD_COVID-19OEE-BOS@hud.gov for HOME funds. Potential objectors should contact the Agency/HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.