



# MEETING MINUTES

## Town of West Warwick Planning Board

**Meeting Date:** Monday, June 8, 2020

**Time:** 5:00 p.m.

**Members Present** Joseph DiMartino, Chair  
**Via Zoom:** Felix Appolonia, Vice Chair  
Joe Gardosik  
Anthony Petrarca  
Joe Garcia (Alt. member)  
Jessica Rubery (Alt. member)

**Members Absent:** Joshua Barrette

**Planning Staff:** Mark Carruolo, Town Planner  
Elaine Mansour, CDBG Manager

**Legal Counsel:** Albert DiFiore, Esquire

### Item 1 Approval of Minutes

Review and approval of February 3, 2020 meeting minutes.

Motion to approve the February 3, 2020 minutes by Mr. Gardosik, seconded by Mr. Petrarca. All in favor.

### Item 2 PY 19 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application

Certification to determine compliance of proposed activities with local development policy set forth in the local Comprehensive Community Plan and with local development ordinances and regulations.

### Discussion

Elaine L. Mansour, CDBG Manager, reviewed the proposed application for the Board members.

The total request is \$1,643,780 for the following projects:

Phenix Infrastructure/Brayton St Drainage Project, Phase II \$750,000

Tanglewood Neighborhood Roadway Improvements/Curbing/Sidewalks \$500,000  
Phenix Infrastructure/Potter Avenue Roadway Improvements \$260,000  
Cornerstone Adult Services (Regional Funding) \$45,000  
Human Services/Senior Center Program Operations \$20,000  
West Warwick Senior Center COVID Expenses \$8,780  
St. Elizabeth Home COVID Expenses (Regional Funding) \$60,000

Motion to certify the proposed 2019 CDBG application is in compliance with local development ordinances and regulations by Mr. Gardosik, seconded by Mr. Petrarca.

**Planning Board Vote**

Joseph DiMartino	Yes
Felix Appolonia	Yes
Joe Gardosik	Yes
Anthony Petrarca	Yes
Joseph Garcia (Alt.)	Yes
Jessica Rubery (Alt.)	Yes

Motion passes.

**Item 3**

**Public Meeting**

**Medrecycler-RI Inc.**

**1600 Division Road**

**Request for 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Application Review**

Applicant/Owner: Medrecycler - RI Inc.  
Location: 1600 Division Road  
Assessor's Plat: 30  
Assessor's Lot(s): 3 & 471  
Zoning District: Commercial Industrial (CI)  
Land Area: 34 Acres  
Number of lots: NA  
Engineer: Millstone Engineering

The Planning Board desires to engage an environmental expert/consulting firm to perform a third party review of the application and application materials as it relates to environmental impact on behalf of the Planning Board; said cost of the environmental expert to be borne by the applicant.

**Discussion**

Mr. DiMartino asked what the concerns are with the application. Mr. Carruolo stated there has been a lot of information circulating on the internet and there have been discussions with a neighboring community regarding the application as well. Many questions are being received on the Planning Board's application and the RI DEM applications and this is a very detailed area. Due to the type of questions surrounding this application the Town Planner should not be the sole

individual to review the material. Mr. Carruolo spoke with the applicant and his attorney and they had no objection to having a third party review. Additional documents were received today from Attorney Kelly that have not been reviewed as of yet and those documents will be forwarded to the board members following the meeting.

The Town will choose the consultant with the cost borne by the applicant. Mr. DiFiore also stated he has received several calls regarding this project and fully agrees with having a third party review.

Attorney Kelly stated the applicant had a report done by an independent party for RI Commerce and he has sent that to the Town of East Greenwich along with a letter. He also stated there is false information on emissions, etc. Attorney Kelley stated that the emissions are similar to two cars running, 11,000 miles per year and are not significant. The applicant is committed to providing all information needed regarding this project.

Mr. DiMartino agreed there should be an independent evaluation, not one provided to the board by the applicant but from someone the board chooses.

Erik Falk, tenant in the building where the use being proposed: Mr. Falk stated as a tenant in the building, he has not been told anything about this business. How does he know it will be safe and asked if there are any others in the United States? Mr. Carruolo stated in meetings with RI DEM and the WWFD, RI DEM has looked for similar types of facilities located elsewhere in the country. RI DEM located two established waste facilities although not medical waste, one in MN and the other in MI. There was one in FL for a brief time that was approved for processing medical waste however it closed shortly after opening. Mr. Falk feels this is somewhat unproven; he has approximately 70 employees working next door and wants to be sure it's safe for them especially with what's going on with the pandemic, otherwise he will most likely relocate his business. Attorney Kelly stated that Mr. Falk's statement was irresponsible without knowing all of the information. He stated he can't see how it could possibly cause any safety issues with him or his employees. Mr. Kelly offered to talk with Mr. Falk and provide any information he has to him and also offered his phone number.

Mr. Falk asked if this was previously proposed in Johnston and Attorney Kelly said no.

Andrew Teitz, Town of East Greenwich Solicitor: Shares concerns on the project and wants it to be safe.

Christine Baglioni showed online as an attendee, however when asked for any comments there was no response.

Motion to approve the engagement of an environmental expert/consulting firm to perform a third party review of the Medrecycler-RI application and application materials as it relates to environmental impact, said cost to be borne by the applicant by Mr. Petrarca, seconded by Mr. Gardosik.

A typed question was entered asking when the Preliminary Hearing will be held. It is unknown

at this time, a representative from Attorney Kelly's office stated there is still permitting to be obtained through DEM.

**Planning Board Vote**

Joseph DiMartino	Yes
Felix Appolonia	Yes
Joe Gardosik	Yes
Anthony Petrarca	Yes
Jessica Rubery (Alt.)	Yes
Joseph Garcia (Alt.)	Yes

Motion passes.

**Item 4**  
**Public Comment**

None

Motion to adjourn at 5:27 pm by Ms. Rubery, seconded by Mr. Petrarca. All in favor.