



City of
GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

**COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

Roxann Wedegartner
Mayor

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**Minutes for Public Hearing for the
CITY OF GREENFIELD and Ashfield, Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain,
Conway, Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Hawley, Heath, Leverett, Leyden, Monroe, Montague,
New Salem, Northfield, Orange, Rowe, Shelburne, Shutesbury, Sunderland, Warwick,
Wendell, and Whately**

Monday, June 8th, 2020 – 5:30 p.m.
Via WebEx remote access (video and phone)

PRESENT:

MJ Adams, Director of Community Development, City of Greenfield
Lindsay Rowe, Community Development Administrator
Mariah Kurtz, Erving Town Planner, resident of Greenfield.
Brooks McCutchen and Janis Steele owners of Berkshire Sweet Gold Maple Farm in Heath
Jonathan D., Hilltown Youth Performing Arts, jonathan@crocker.com

MJ Adams opened the meeting at 5:32 p.m.

This is the third public hearing for the microenterprise assistance program. This is for a grant application to DHCD which will be submitted Friday.

Please use the chat function to sign in or to express any concerns.

Background - COVID-19 pandemic has really impacted the economy across the country. The Federal Government passed the CARES Act to provide funds to communities to help support small businesses. Greenfield is a Mini Entitlement community that is leading a regional grant application to provide these funds for Microenterprises - businesses with five (5) or fewer employees.

The City recognized that this will not be able to fully help, but should be able to provide a stop gap for a few months for businesses. The application is due this Friday, June 12th. We expect to know if the funding has been awarded in July. We hope to be able to provide grants in August.

In order to be eligible for funds, business must be located in one of the communities; have five (5) or fewer employees (including owner/s); owner/s must be low/moderate income, determined by either 8 weeks prior to application of owner/s household income or 2019 tax returns; business must be for-profit with a physical presence; must be current as of March 1, 2020 on taxes; must be valid with state and local licensing; must not be involved in litigation with state or municipality; and must be open or plan to reopen.

Award is a forgivable loan for 3 months up to \$10,000. Loan will be forgiven if the business documents that it spent funds in the way they said they would. The Franklin County CDC has been working with the City on the earlier program. The City will procure an administrator for the bigger program. Businesses will apply through the City of Greenfield's website.

If business is interested in getting emails and updates, email robin.Fordham@greenfield-ma.gov.

J.D. - would non-profits be able to participate? No, that's the HUD guidelines. Community Foundation does have some funding for local nonprofits.

Brooks McCutchen -Can you walk through who must apply on the 12th--our town? And then when do businesses apply? The City and regional application is due to DHCD on the 12th. Then DHCD will make awards to the communities.

Brooks McCutchen - So, the Town of Heath does not need to submit anything by the 12th, correct? Yes, the City of Greenfield is taking the lead and the other communities will be included. The State may have a second round of grants later in the year, and if so, we'll apply again.

The 5-employee limit is due to HUD funding guidelines. If this is changed we will let you know.

The City will accept public comments through tomorrow morning.

Seeing no additional questions or comments, MJ Adams ended the public hearing at 5:48 pm.

