

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release**

#### **Contact:**

### **Waterford Borough announces expansion of grant programs aimed at improving the downtown**

*With \$75,000 in funding available for property and business owners for façade, interior renovation, structural and sidewalk projects*

WATERFORD, PA (April 22, 2020) – Building on the success of the Façade Improvement Grant Program, which has provided just over \$35,000 to eight projects in Downtown Waterford since 2018 resulting in more than \$70,000 worth of completed and planned investments, Waterford Borough is opening a third round of Façade Improvement Grants, as well as a revised Sidewalk Grant and a new Interior/Structural Improvement Grant. Funding for these grant programs comes from a Mission Main Street Grant awarded to the borough in 2019 from the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA).

Commercial buildings within the designated downtown boundary, which is defined for the purpose of these grant programs as the center line of Walnut Street east to the center line of Cherry Street from the south borough line north to the center line of 5th Street, are eligible for these grant funds. Property owners, as well as businesses in the downtown, are encouraged to apply for the grants.

All grants will be made on a 50/50 matching basis. Waterford Borough will provide up to 50% of the project cost as a grant with the remaining 50% of the cost being the property/business owner's responsibility.

The deadline for applicants to apply is June 24, 2020.

The borough has high hopes for the new Interior/Structural Improvement Grant Program, which is intended to support projects that rehabilitate, restore, or preserve historic resources in the downtown in order to enhance the vibrancy of the central business district. Specific examples of fundable project work include concrete (excludes sidewalk replacement/repair), masonry, structural metal restoration or replacement, architectural woodwork and millwork, roofing, flashing, waterproofing, insulation, door and window repair and restoration, plumbing, fire protection systems, heating and cooling, electrical systems, and accessibility improvements. Priority will be given to projects utilizing proper preservation techniques and materials.

Tim LaFlamme, Borough Council President, expressed his hopes for the program. “Our intent with creating this new opportunity is to promote good stewardship of the architectural heritage of the community and support efforts to keep the downtown welcoming and safe for residents, business owners, and visitors alike,” he noted.

In addition to the \$75,000 per year for the next two years for the three grant programs, the borough was also awarded funding from ECGRA to make improvements to the Waterford Library.

The economic vitality of Waterford is dependent upon a vibrant and well-maintained downtown. Mr. LaFlamme said, “The purpose of the program is to stimulate private investment in the downtown and create a compelling place for businesses to exist and residents and visitors to spend time.”

Grant guidelines and applications are available through the borough’s office or online at <http://waterfordboro.net/news/>. Applicants with questions regarding the application or the eligibility of a project are encouraged to contact Waterford Borough Secretary Stacy Mattson at (814) 796-4709.

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