

Council Agenda Report

Date: June 13, 2016

Prepared by: Brent Jett, PE, Civil Engineer

Submitted by: Oden C. Wheeler Jr., Director DPW 

SUBJECT: FY 2017 Working Waterfronts Enhancement Grant from Maryland DNR in the amount of \$30,000.

Recommendation: That Council approve submission of subject grant application.

Discussion:

Previously the City of Cambridge in conjunction with the Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland collaborated on a pilot program resulting in a DNR report titled "Building a Framework for Sustainable Working Waterfronts: Cambridge, Maryland." This document is a broad stroke approach to how the working waterfront can thrive and be revitalized in the future. Currently, DNR Working Waterfronts has a grant opportunity for the planning of more specific items relating to enhancement programs for the waterfront. The City applied for this grant last cycle approximately 8 months ago. While the City was not awarded the grant at that time, DNR staff have indicated that we had a strong application and only 3 municipalities were funded for the grant cycle. Since that award announcement, City staff have met with DNR staff to see what can be improved and feel that we have a submission worthy of funding during this grant cycle.

If awarded the grant funds, the City staff would seek a private consultant to prepare a Working Waterfront Implementation Plan that would further refine the previously completed plan, utilize the Waterfront 2020 plan, and apply real-world concepts to Cambridge. The consultant would be hired through the standard qualifications based RFP process. The focus areas would be:

- The development of linages, paths, and trails between Great Marsh, Long Wharf, Sailwinds, and downtown Cambridge, including signage for the heritage tourism.
- How to encourage mixed use development along the waterfront.
- An adaptive reuse for the Mill St Pump House and improved public amenities at Great Marsh and Long Wharf.
- An analysis and plan for implementation for the needs of the commercial working watermen and water-dependent businesses that utilize the City's waterfront.

Once the Implementation Plan is complete, the City will be prepared for the submission of implementation grants from public or private funding sources in the future with a clear vision.

Fiscal Impact:

The City is requesting \$30,000 in grant funds with no cash match from Cambridge.

Approved by: Sandra Tripp-Jones, City Manager 