

# **CITY OF OGDENSBURG, NEW YORK**

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Office of the City Manager



**TO:** City Council

**SUBJECT:** Council Update

**DATE:** February 13, 2020

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Please find attached an update from the Planning Department.

# MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** Sarah Purdy, City Manager  
**CC:** Public Update  
**FROM:** Andrea Smith, AICP *ALS*  
Director of Planning and Development  
**DATE:** February 13, 2020  
**SUBJECT:** Planning Department Update

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Below is an update from the Planning Department:

**ZOMBIE PROPERTY INITIATIVE** – As a Round 2 recipient of New York State Zombie Property grant funds, Ogdensburg is continuing our efforts to combat vacant, abandoned, and deteriorated properties in our community. With funding from the Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC), Ogdensburg is working to develop a neighborhood-sensitive approach to code enforcement. This approach strives to be equitable, more resource efficient, and more effective at stabilizing and strengthening neighborhoods disproportionately impacted by vacancy.

Our Zombie 2.0 grant program is providing funds to conduct a two-day, place-based training here in Ogdensburg for City staff, members of Council, the Ogdensburg Land Bank, and community stakeholders. The training will be provided by Center for Community Progress (CCP). CCP is a national leader for building strong, equitable communities where vacant, abandoned, and deteriorated properties are transformed into assets for neighbors and neighborhoods. Today, Community Progress has affected change in more than 48 states and seven countries through leadership education and collaborative systems, policy, and practice reforms.

“Simply, we work to transform “Vacant Spaces into Vibrant Places.” For more information, visit [communityprogress.net](http://communityprogress.net).”

More information on this training opportunity and invitations are forthcoming.

**RESTORE NY** – The Ogdensburg Planning Department continues to accept applications through the City’s 2017 Residential Emergency Services to Offer (HOME) Repairs to the Elderly (RESTORE) grant program. The RESTORE program, funded through New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) provides funds for emergency repairs to eliminate conditions in homes that pose a threat to the life, health, or safety of low-income elderly (age 60 or older) homeowners that cannot afford to make the repairs in a timely fashion.

Eligible Participants – Eligible participants are individuals that meet the criteria below:

- The individual (homeowner) owns and occupies the residential unit receiving assistance as a primary residence;
- The homeowner must be sixty years of age or older; and

- The homeowner has a household income that does not exceed one hundred percent (100%) of the area median income (AMI).
  - Area median income is based on household size and county. For St. Lawrence County AMI for a 2-person household = \$53,000, for a household of 4, 100% AMI is \$66,200.
  - For more information, or instructions on how to receive an application please contact the Planning Office at 315.393.7150 or email the Director of Planning and Development, Andrea Smith at [asmith@ogdensburg.org](mailto:asmith@ogdensburg.org).

Eligible Activities – An eligible emergency repair eliminates a hazardous condition or deficiency that poses an immediate threat to the life, health or safety or the elderly homeowner.

Specifically, our program will provide funds for necessary repairs including (but not limited to):

- Repairs or replacement of roofs;
- repairs or replacement of HVAC systems;
- repair broken stairs (internal or external);
- Replace windows to enhance energy efficiency; and
- Hot water tank replacement.

**2019 FLOODING** – On Friday, February 14, 2020 preliminary draft engineering reports will be presented to Governor Cuomo and Lake Ontario Resiliency and Economic Development Initiative (REDI) commission. Communities, across the eight-county REDI region, including Ogdensburg have been working with state agencies to prepare these draft reports in response to the Governor’s announcement of REDI funding last fall.

Ogdensburg’s four projects that received an allocation of funds include:

- The Oswegatchie Seawall and Maple City Trail at the confluence of the St. Lawrence and Oswegatchie Rivers
  - \$2,000,000
- Municipal Docks at the Dobisky Center
  - \$911,973
- Greenbelt
  - \$530,000
- Morrisette Park
  - \$4,875,000

REDI funding will provide 95% State funding while municipalities are required to contribute 5% matching funds. Ogdensburg is working with the Dormitory Authority of New York State (DASNY) and Department of State (DOS) as our primary funding and implementation partners. A more detailed update will be provided at the February 24, 2020 City Council meeting.

CC: FILE