

To: Steve, Missy and Dennis
From: Doug M.
Sept. 30, 1980

Re: Projects Report

Chicopee: Jerry Hayes at the U. Mass Center for Eco Devel. has just signed a contract with the city for a study and proposal for reuse of the remaining urban renewal parcel, ~~which is~~ accross from the Uniroyal Plant (which shut down in July.) I recently attended the McKinely House groundbreaking (roughly 125 units of elderly in a converted mill done by Dan O'Connell) with Shelly Freidman and others. I also spent an afternoon with Vince McGovern of the Westover Devel Corp. and toured the indust. air park. With the agreement with the Air Force on joint use of the air strip, this makes this area the most attractive industrial site in Western Mass. McGovern has a staff of six (including himself) and most of their efforts are spent managing the park and working out deals. Only limited work in done marketing the facility. The possibility of working out a deal with the Springfield Chamber to assist in this area seemed like a good one to him.

Springfield: Met with union officials and local reps on the future of American Bosch. Union folks are concerned that the new equipment ordered is all for southern plant locations. Cong. Boland has already met with officials from United Technologies (the parent co.) and a unified effort with the Gov. and Mayors of Sprld. and Chicopee will be pursued to encourage investment in this plant. At issue here is a very low productivity level and a strained management / employee relationship. I also toured the North End UDAG and learned of some of the difficulties developing with this project. Levels of neighborhood jobs created, administration and experience are at the heart of the problems. However, Downtown Springfield is a bed of activity, with the SIS, Chase and Boland buildings all under construction. I also referred a request for assistance from Springfield Tomato co. to the SBA.

Northampton: I met with the Mayor and representatives of Mass Electric regarding a parcel of land behind city hall. The city would like to have it for free; Mass Electric at first balked at selling the land at all and after some discussion and input from this office they offered the land for \$63,000. The mayor could not get any request for this amount of money through the city council and again requested the land for 0. (The land involved is a 4 acre rite of way from city hall to the state hospital. The city needs the land for (a) parking for a project called the Round House which is ready to go with a developer, and; (b) the reuse of the state hospital which is currently being studied. I spoke with NE. Electric today and I think they will come back with a second offer for the ^{parking} parcel in immediate need (perhaps a long-term lease) shortly. The B.U.N. program continues to move ahead with discount weatherization offerings in neighborhoods and commercial blocks. The city is also looking at the reuse of the state hospital issue which is a high priority for the Mayor.

*Huntington: The Army Corps of Engineers will be releasing their "hydro reconisance study" by the middle of Oct. and at that time we will be hosting a meeting with the Corps, town officals (who want to develop the site without the Corps) and other agencies to discuss future plans. The project has the potential to be a model public power project ~~with for~~ small, low head hydro in N. England. Huntington also is the site of a proposed family housing project by Charkoudian. It was first objected to because of scale (originally at 88 now down to 44 units) and we have asked FmHA to respond to local concern regarding taxes and services, etc.

*Westfield: I was able to release an agreement from the Post Office on the disposition of their property in the city. PT really should vist this city at some point. The Mayor continues to express his desire to have Pual and there is a housing project (Myerson-Allen) that have invited him for a tour.

Amherst: The water shortage here could have been predicted and it has forced the town to speed up work on a new source (the Lawrence Swamp) as well as tie in with Hadley which has plenty of water but doesn't give a hoot about Amherst (an old town fued). This just points up the importance of solving resource issues, especially water, regionally. Amherst also has to develp a new land-fill and would like some \$ from EDA or whatever.

Pittsfield: I have met once with Janet Goldberg (CD Dir.) regarding the forming of a LDC for the downtown. Since that time, Dan O'Connell ~~has~~ have gotten interested in developing parcel 3 (the old UDAG site) and I will be meeting with them further to discuss the idea. Jack Doyle of O'Connell spoke to PT about this in Washington.

South Hadley: Two competing (or so they're viewed) housing proposals in this town have gotten people up in arms. A separate memo on this has been prepared and is attached.

I have been speaking at various energy seminars in the area and participating in official ceremonies when opportunity and schedule mix.

Agawam: Rte, 57. Needless to say, I was quoted somewhat out of context and the words "angrey" and "disturbed" are not mine! Having met with all parties involved I feel confident that our position is correct, responsible, in keeping with office policy (i.e. the Mass Plan), and in good judgement. I think in the short term we were victims of an inexperienced reporter trying to pit one group against another. But in the long run, I think the letter was right, sent at the proper time, and has ~~gain~~ the respect of Mayor Dimauro and others.

*See attached press.