

To: Steve, Missy and Dennis
From : Doug M.
August 22, 1980

Re: Projects Report

The Northampton Industrial Reality Corporation has moved ahead with changing its status to a local development corporation. I attended a breakfast meeting of the NIRDC on Friday, Aug. 15, and papers to change the corp. status to a 501 C-3 will be filed with the Sec of State and IRS. Several projects were discussed including a relocation in the industrial park, negotiations with Mass electric on property necessary for parking space at the Round House, a reuse study of the Northampton State Hospital, and the National Mainstreet Center competition. The Mayor also has ideas on a BUN III and IV, which are a commercial conservation and fuel efficient car sale. Gene Benell of EOCD has been selected as the CD director.

Met with the B&M folks (including Dennis Coffey) on a \$2 million project to upgrade the East Deerfield rail yards. They are looking to some innovative financing with the state for this investment feeling that federal sources have dried up. Unless this rehabilitation project takes place, they may have to look at a site in Mechanicville, N.Y. The B&M employes nearly 600 people in Franklin County and with this improved facility they could save some \$1.1 m. in their annual budget.

SIAR

~~SIAR~~ is a Cambridge firm that does economic planning and forecasting. They are looking to public agencies that could use their services as well as private businesses that are experiencing management and marketing difficulties. (For example, they have worked with a shoe manufacturer and through an analysis of the market have secured a corner of the market in specialty shoes for this firm.)

Springfield is preparing to submit a \$600,000 grant to EDA for their skills center. I met with Ray Warren and Frank Galuni (whom I took to lunch!!!) to discuss this and they will be sending us a preliminary proposal by Sept. 1. I have some concern that much of the \$600,000 is to go to house-keeping (establishing a park, etc.) but I promised to do whatever we could. I also discussed possible connections with Chicopee on industrial development strategies for the area.

Spent two hours with Tony Rovosa on his South Hadley housing project (the Riverboat; 150 units of elderly and family housing in at MHFA). The only problem with the project is the location (3 miles outside of town and in or next to farm land.) It is a tricky situation because of the need for family housing in S. Hadley and another proposal from O'Connell for elderly in the downtown. I have been in touch with all the offices involved and expect to take a trip out to the site before recommending a position for the office.

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Met with Judy Gillin of the New England Small Farm Institute in Belchertown. They have been running a very successful solar greenhouse demonstration project as well as a small farm on the grounds of the Belchertown State School. They are in need of \$40,000 to continue their operation for the coming year. I am checking with a number of agencies for them.

Met with the Ware revitalization committee to discuss their progress with the industries that were burnt out and general downtown rejuvenation efforts. There is a need for comprehensive planning and zoning before bits and pieces are acted on. They are proposing a CARD for downtown and a strip where a developer wants to build a shopping mall 3/4 mile outside of town. Bill and I are working closely on this.

Attended the Stanley Home Products 50th anniversary reception in Westfield. Cong. Conte presented the Dept. of Commerce award for excellence in exporting.