

To: Steve, Missy, Dennis
From: Doug M.
Jan. 29, 1981

Projects Report (Jan. 12-30)

Met with the consultant for the reuse of Northampton State Hospital. We discussed a number of options for the site including: market housing, multilevel senior care center, high tech/research and development center, farming, and a "peace center". I suggested that an effort be made to bring in the 5 colleges and especially Dean Russell Jones of the School of Engineering at U. Mass.

Discussed a number of projects with Pat Canavan of MURAG including the farm investment credit pool and development strategies in Chicopee with the Springfield banks. MURAG has divided their research staff up to work on other issues such as energy and farming.

The Greenfield Town Meeting voted to pursue industrial or commercial tenants for the Millers FALLS Building. This finished an effort with State Street Development who had proposed a family/elderly development. Mike Westgate is the consultant to the redevelopment authority working on the marketing of the building. We have met once with the Land Bank people and Westgate hopes to have a proposal with a committed lease agreement for the February meeting. We may know something by the time PT speaks to the Franklin County Chamber. I have also been working with MHFA and HUD to process the necessary papers to secure commitments for construction financing for the Weldon Hotel. In my efforts with the Millers Falls Building I also met with State Street Development and discussed several projects they have going in Worcester and Gardner (Overlook).

I arranged a meeting with Don Binns of the Springfield Chamber with Don St. Pierre and others from the Franklin County Chamber to discuss the operations of the SADC. The Franklin County Chamber has recently absorbed the Greenfield Devel. Corp. and were interested in setting up a similar operation to SADC. It was a useful meeting. Binns also mentioned that he was in negotiations with area municipalities on a mechanism to allow property tax revenue returned to the area and not exclusively to the city or town where the industry decides to locate.

Visited with Ed Shanahan of the Daily Hampshire Gazette and we agreed to get together in the near future to discuss the area and our activities.

The Riverboat Village has received approval from the State's 774 housing appeal. MHFA has this project in preparation for subsidy. I have set a meeting with Marvin Sifflinger, Mike Harrington (hired on this development by O'Connell) Jack Doyle of O'Connell and someone from MHFA to discuss the Buttery Brook proposal. This meeting would be to look at the preliminary numbers on the project to see if we could combine a UDAG with the commercial development and increase the number of family units. We should know from this whether the project could go.

505

The State Legislature has a Ct. River Salmon compact before it. It has not acted on similar legislation for 3 years. There is much at stake here involving a \$75 million restoration project. I expect to be drafting a letter to Sen. Pres. Bulger and Speaker McGee asking their support.

Met with Ken Lemanski and DOL officials on the TRA benefits problems. I believe we have worked out an acceptable resolution to this but must wait for the direction from DES. Most of the workers in this case are laid off from the Uniroyal plant in Chicopee.

Met with Mike Shea in Adams. They have an excellent revitalization program in the works and were pleased with our information on a housing rehab project. I first spoke to a meeting of interested towns people one year ago.

I spent a morning meeting with Janet Goldberg and Glen Harvey in Pittsfield. We discussed the prospects for development on Parcel 3 (the old UDAG site) and a number of city projects including the funds transfer for the water emergency, a HUD Sect. 312 loan, and the merging of the Camber with the Hills Conference and the BCDC. These meetings provided me with good issues to follow-up for PT's visit.

Visited with Mayor Lamb in North Adams to discuss the progress of the North Adams Now Plan. A recent housing award in the downtown may trigger a merchant to invest in his buildings facade. Lamb hopes more merchants will follow his lead. The local banks have not yet been tested as to their willingness to participate.

Traveled with Bob B. to meetings with: Northampton Bankers, Springfield small businessmen, and Worcester businessmen and all the area bankers. The meetings were very constructive and served as excellent contact for the office.

Met with Wayne Chen, whose 8A certification with SBA we are working on, to discuss an idea of technology application to Mass. small business. Chen is a referral from Sen. Hatfield's office.

EDA recently visited Springfield to hand out the necessary forms for the industrial park and the skills center (1 million and .5 million dollars respectively).