

Town of Smithfield

Early Notice and Public Review

of a Proposed Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that the Town of Smithfield has determined that the following proposed action under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, Contract #16/31/29, is located adjacent to the 100-year floodplain, and freshwater wetlands and the Town of Smithfield will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action in the floodplain and wetlands and the potential impacts on the floodplain from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988 and 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands.

Project: The Georgiaville Village Green is an affordable housing project consisting of the construction of forty-two (42) new affordable rental housing family apartments for five (5) households not exceeding 50% AMI and thirty-seven (37) households earning no more than 60% AMI. The proposed project is located at 29 Whipple Avenue in Smithfield, RI, 02917, Providence County. There are nine (9) residential buildings with a total foot print of 26,820 square feet. The project also involves the installation of new utilities (sewer and water), drainage and new roadways. The project will be developed in the former location of the Narragansett Gray Iron Foundry and is a brownfield area in need of remediation.

The project received Community Development Block Grant \$650,000 in funding for acquisition in the 2015 Program Year (PY) and was awarded \$250,000 in 2016 PY funds for soft cost including legal and developer fees.

Floodplain: A portion of the subject property is located within the 100-year floodplain (Zone AE) associated with the Woonasquatucket River. The development portion of site is not located in a flood zone and no disturbance of the floodplain area is proposed. Accordingly, there will be no loss of floodwater storage, floodwater conveyance or loss of any of the other natural and beneficial functions of the floodplain. Approximately 43,000 square feet of floodplain is located within the boundaries of the lot.

Wetlands: Three freshwater wetland types are present in the area. These wetlands include a riverbank wetland, special aquatic sites and a forested wetland. The riverbank wetland extends 200 feet west of the Woonasquatucket River's west bank. The riverbank wetland occupies approximately 2.27 acres on this lot. Within the riverbank wetland, the special aquatic sites occupy approximately 0.10 acres, deciduous forest occupies approximately 0.38 acres, forested wetland occupies approximately 0.01 acres and the grass/shrubland occupies approximately 1.78 acres.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains/wetlands and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplain/wetland, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains/wetlands can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains/wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by the Town of Smithfield at the following address on or before **January 28th, 2019:** Town of Smithfield, 64 Farnum Pike, Smithfield, RI 02917, (401) 233-1017, Attention: Michael Phillips, Town Planner. A full description of the project may also be reviewed during normal business hours, 8:30-4:30 at the same address as above. Comments may also be submitted via email at mphillips@smithfieldri.com. Date: January 10, 2019.