

CUMBERLAND COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

CDBG PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION – 2010

Community(s) Town of Harrison

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Project Title: Harrison Downtown Revitalization Planning Grant

Amount of CDBG funds requested \$ 25,000

Total estimated project cost \$ \$25,000

Name of Authorized Official: Brad Plante

Signature of Authorized Official: 

Planning Grant Application --- Program Budget

Cost Category	CDBG Funds	Municipal Funds	Other Funds	Total
Consultant Services	\$16,900.00			
Advertising	\$300.00			
Public Meetings	\$3,000.00			
Printing	\$1,000.00			
Mailings	\$300.00			
Other				
1. Committee Meetings	\$3,500.00			
2.				
3.				
4.				
Total Costs	\$25,000.00			

**Town of Harrison 2010 Cumberland County
CDBG Planning Grant Application**

Harrison Downtown and Crystal Lake Park Planning Grant

Project Summary:

1) This project will prepare a downtown revitalization plan that will include the following elements:

- A condition assessment of downtown buildings.
- Review of lighting and wayfinding signage.
- Assessment of intersection sightlines and landscaping.
- Condition assessment of trees.
- Review of pedestrian amenities including sidewalks, crosswalks and handicapped accessibility.

The Town of Harrison has unique civic assets with a public park at the north end of Long Lake and also at Crystal Lake Park. Harrison's downtown is ideally situated between the two lakes. The confluence of natural *and* cultural resources provides great raw material to work with to develop a unifying master plan with a vision, cost and implementation strategy. To date there have been no coordinated linkages between these two park areas. This study will explore opportunities to better connect the downtown to the park areas to promote commercial activity in the downtown and increase pedestrian activity.

The downtown improvement plan will solicit input from residents at a weekend design charrette where residents will have an opportunity to share ideas and guide a collaborative process to suggest improvements and develop a plan that establishes downtown improvement priorities, suggest strategies and consider options to implement the plan. An additional public meeting will be conducted to review the report prepared by the consultant based on the charrette. Other opportunities to solicit public input and participation will be coordinated by the project contractor as needs and opportunities present themselves.

The Town of Harrison qualifies for area-wide projects under the CDBG program due to its high percentage of low to moderate income residents.

Due to cost and complexity, the Town of Harrison has never completed a downtown development plan. CDBG funding will be essential to completing this task, which will provide a blueprint for future projects funded through the CDBG program and other public and private grant sources. This plan will provide a template that will help guide subsequent applications to Cumberland County Block Grant program.

2) The planning tasks to be undertaken will include a building condition assessment of important downtown properties. It will also include a review of relevant park amenities and their conditions. It will include a survey of signage and related wayfinding tools for pedestrian, motorists as well as boaters.

A design charrette will solicit input from community members – both year-round and summer residents and property owners. This typically involves organizing community teams who identify both problem areas in the downtown, as well as cultural resources that may be underutilized.

A final report will be drafted and reviewed in a public forum(s) and presented to the Board of Selectman. This report may serve as the basis for community capital improvement planning, and the solicitation of grant funds from a variety of different sources.

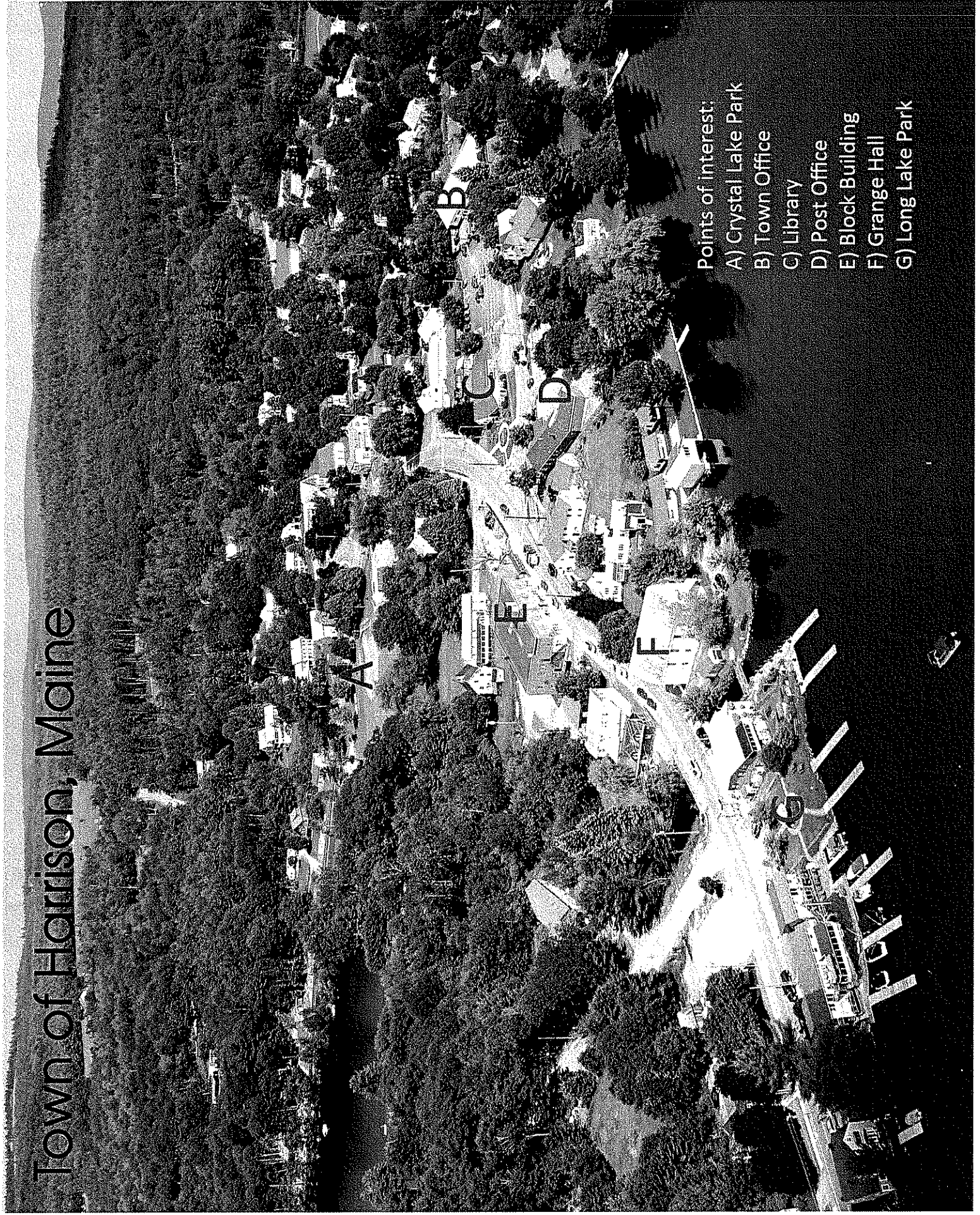
3) Residents will be invited to participate in the program during the spring of 2010. There are a number of different organizations including the Harrison Grange, Historical Society, Friends of the Library, and private road associations who will be invited to participate in the process.

Matching funds are not required for this project, though it will include in-kind participation from members of the Harrison Town Office, Board of Selectman and Planning Board.

The goal will be to conduct the building assessments and complete the public input portion of the planning activities in the spring and summer of 2010, with the delivery of a final report in the fall of 2010. Mitchell Rasor Land Design of Yarmouth Maine (<http://mrlid.net/>), a landscape architecture and design firm with considerable experience in downtown revitalization planning is available to conduct the project within this suggested timeframe.

Town of Harrison, Maine

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- Points of interest:
- A) Crystal Lake Park
 - B) Town Office
 - C) Library
 - D) Post Office
 - E) Block Building
 - F) Grange Hall
 - G) Long Lake Park