

W. Village of Fort Edward – Rogers Island Land Purchase (W558)

September 14, 2010

- Grantee:** Village of Fort Edward (the “Village”)
- ESD Investment:** A grant of up to \$100,000 to be used to purchase a parcel of property on Rogers Island (the “Island”).
- Project Location:** Village of Fort Edward, Rogers Island, Washington County
- NYS Empire Zone (or equivalent):** N/A
- Project Completion:** December 2010
- Grantee Contact:** Matthew Traver, Mayor
118 Broadway
Fort Edward, NY 12828
Phone: (518) 747-4023 Fax: (518) 747-2493
- Project Team:** Project Management Javier Roman-Morales
Affirmative Action Laverne Poole
Environmental Soo Kang

Project Description:

Background

The Village of Fort Edward, which is located on the Hudson River and includes Rogers Island, was incorporated in 1849. According to the 2000 US Census, the Village has a population of 3,100. In the late 1750s, the Village played an important role in the French and Indian War, when a large military complex was constructed on Rogers Island. Today, Rogers Island is an historic site listed on the National Register of Historic Places and has become a tourist attraction. A visitor center, which opened in 2001, serves as the home base of operations for the Adirondack Community College Archeological Field School during the summer and hosts an annual French and Indian War encampment with living history demonstrations, drills and skirmishes along the banks of the Hudson River.

New York State has arranged to acquire vacant land parcels on Rogers Island from the current owner, Anthony Nastasi, to maintain and expand the Island as a heritage tourism site.

Thirty-eight acres will be purchased by New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historical Preservation (“OPRHP”) for creation of a state park and to protect and preserve the historic area of the Island. The remaining nine acres will be used by the Village to create economic development opportunities in line with the recently completed Visioning Plan, which includes building a hotel, spa and marina.

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The Project

This project consists of the purchase of nine acres of land on the southern part of Rogers Island. This land is best suited for development due to its location across from Champlain Canal Lock 7 and because it does not contain any historic property. The Village will purchase the land, and the Fort Edward Local Development Corporation will be in charge of marketing the property to developers.

Upon completion of the project, the Grantee will furnish a final report describing the impact and effectiveness of the project.

Financing Uses	Amount	Financing Sources	Amount	Percent
Land Acquisition	\$100,000	ESD Grant	\$100,000	100%
Total Project Costs	\$100,000	Total Project Financing	\$100,000	100%

Environmental Review:

The Village of Fort Edward Board of Trustees, as lead agency, has completed an environmental review of the proposed project, pursuant to the requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”) and the implementing regulations of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. This review found the project to be a Type I Action, which would not have a significant effect on the environment. The lead agency issued a Negative Declaration on March 8, 2010. ESD staff reviewed the Negative Declaration and supporting materials and concurs. It is recommended that the Directors make a Determination of No Significant Effect on the Environment.

Due to the site’s listing on the New York State and National Registers of Historic Places, ESD has confirmed that the project sponsor consulted with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation pursuant to Section 14.09 of the New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law. No further consultation is required in connection with the proposed purchase of property on Rogers Island. Further consultation with OPRHP will be warranted if the property is to be developed or if any ground disturbing activities are proposed.

Statutory Basis – Community Capital Assistance Program:

The project was authorized in accordance with Chapter 84 of the Laws of 2002 and reappropriated in the 2010-2011 New York State budget.

Disclosure and Accountability Certifications:

The Grantee has provided ESDC with the required Disclosure and Accountability Certifications. Grantee’s certifications indicate that Grantee has no conflict of interest or good standing violations and, therefore, staff recommends that the Corporation authorize the grant to the Grantee as described in these materials.

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Fort Edward (Washington County) – Village of Fort Edward – Rogers Island Land Purchase
– Community Capital Assistance Program – Determination of No Significant Effect on the
Environment

RESOLVED, that based on the material submitted to the Directors with respect to the Village of Fort Edward – Rogers Island Land Purchase Project, the Corporation hereby determines that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the environment.

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