

Press Release

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Millbury, Massachusetts

Governor Charlie Baker announced that the Town of Millbury is the recipient of a \$1,000,000 Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Grant. The Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Grant program provides support for towns to plan for climate change resiliency and to implement priority projects. The MVP Grant will allow Millbury to correct drain system inadequacies in Millbury Center while addressing stormwater impacts and non-point source pollution of the Blackstone River, using green infrastructure techniques. The Project includes reconstruction of the Upper and Lower Commons, reconfiguration of the Main/South Main/Elm Street intersection, reconstruction of Town Center sidewalks including ADA-compliant ramps and crosswalks, and sewer, water, traffic signal, and lighting infrastructure improvements. “Inland communities like Millbury face ongoing and growing challenges from climate change as they work to safeguard residents and businesses, and protect developed and natural areas,” **said Governor Charlie Baker**. “Our administration is proud to work with the Town of Millbury through the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program, and will continue to partner with communities and stakeholders to mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts to build a more resilient Commonwealth.”

Laurie Connors, Millbury’s Director of Planning and Development, stated, “This project is key to the economic revitalization of Millbury Center as well as the Town’s efforts to clean up the Blackstone River.” Ms. Connors thanked the Board of Selectmen, the Sewer Commission, Aquarion Water Company, Millbury Redevelopment Authority, and the Millbury Center Beautification Initiative for committing over \$600,000 in support of this effort to combat climate change and green infrastructure upgrades.

At the presentation of the MVP Grant, Jon Adams, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, thanked Governor Baker and Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Kathleen Theoharides for coming to Millbury and honoring the Town with the MVP Grant, a critical part of the Town’s economic development plan. Chairman Adams noted that, “The revitalization of Millbury Center is the linchpin in the Town’s effort to expand housing opportunities and the Town’s commercial base and that Millbury is committed to being people friendly and business friendly.” Chairman Adams went on to thank Director of Planning and Development, Laurie Connors, for her efforts in securing the MVP Grant. He also highlighted the efforts of the other project team members’ partners by stating that, “We were lucky to have professionals like Laurie Connors, DPW Supervisor Keith Caruso and the engineers from Weston & Sampson working on this project.”

Vice-Chairman Mary Krumsiek also thanked Ms. Connors and stressed that Laurie Connors is the person who made sure that this project and this grant would happen. She has worked many hours on the Grant and on coordinating all of the people involved. “We all need to know how much she has done and how much this means to Millbury.” Scott Despres, Selectman, echoed Ms. Krumsiek sentiment that this project was brought to fruition by Ms. Connors and her Department. Mr. Despres stated that, “Laurie Connors deserves a great deal of credit for getting this grant for the Town of Millbury. This is going to result in a much needed makeover of the center of town that will beautify Millbury, meet aspects of our MS4 storm water initiative, and make the center of town safer for pedestrians.” Mr. Despres noted that the Town has recently had a number of new business locate in Town because of the pro-business climate.

Katie McKenna, Selectman, congratulated the project team on receiving the \$1,000,000 Grant and noted that, “These grants are important to our efforts to rebuild our infrastructure while still holding down our property taxes. Hopefully, in the future, the Town will continue to be successful in acquiring more grants.” Selectman Chris Naff was excited that the Town had received such a competitive grant. He stated that, “This proves that Millbury is on the move and open for business. Millbury has a history of being an economic driving force in the Blackstone Valley. This project will bring focus on how much Millbury has to offer visitors in our Town Center.”