

What Does it Mean to Drum Point to be Designated as a “Rural Village”?

In short - Nothing. Maryland passed the Smart Growth initiative to direct tax payer money into already established populated areas in order to stop subsidizing suburban sprawl. In Spring 1998 Drum Point, CRE and many of the other Calvert County private communities were designated as “Rural Villages” by Calvert County who was required to submit such a list under the Smart Growth Law. During recent community meetings to discuss the special tax district renewal, questions arose over what this designation achieved for Drum Point. Some seem to think that it made us eligible for grants, programs, and funding that we previously were unqualified to obtain however that is not the case - we still don't qualify.

Here is why - All grants / programs have rules on how to apply and qualifications that must be met. Under Smart Growth, a new qualifier was added for Maryland State funded grants and programs. The new pre-requisite is that the recipient be designated a county, municipality, rural village, or town center. The designation of Drum Point as a Rural Village means that it meets the new pre-requisite, but it does not invalidate all the other pre-requisites that already and always existed. Generally speaking Drum Point does not qualify for grants / programs due to the private community status and private ownership of roads, beaches, etc. This applies to the other private communities as well and has been a trouble spot with the Boys and Girls Club and Save Our Beaches initiatives. In fact the private communities don't even qualify for FEMA aid ! One point of clarification - the former state grant used to help fund the resident deputy patrolling the CRE was a “Lusby Area” grant not a CRE specific grant. The above information is based on conversations with Calvert County Planning and Zoning, grant specialists, and FEMA representatives.

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

By: Carl Faller

With: Greg Bowen (Calvert County Planning and Zoning)

Date: 10/08/99

Subj: Application for Grants and Programs Using the “Rural Village” Designation.

General Speaking:

- The purpose of Smart Growth legislation is to counter spending government funds that were inadvertently supporting suburban sprawl. The idea is to only spend such money in established concentrated population areas.
- As part of the initiative, Counties were required to identify their town centers and rural villages. Being designated as such is a minimum eligibility requirement to qualify for many grant / programs (other eligibility requirements will of course apply to that particular grant). In essence being designated a town center or rural village sets the stage for requesting funds but does not guarantee them.
 - Drum Point and Chesapeake Ranch Estates were designated “Rural Villages” (1998)
 - Lusby Town Center is a designated “Town Center” (1998)
- The concept is so new that there does not seem to be a smooth established mechanism for how rural villages or town centers apply for funds. However, each grant / program tends to have its own application and eligibility requirements. The eligibility of the private communities for a particular grant hinges on the eligibility requirements of that grant / program.

How / Who do We Apply for a Grant? What Grants are Available?

Each grant / program tends to have its own application and eligibility requirements. There are routine type grants (e.g. infrastructure – roads, sewer, water) and special grants (e.g. renovating and planting parks) always available from the government. The county does not have a list per say. Recommend talking to Sherrod Sturrock (Capital Project Coordinator who works for County Administration and Finance). See 10/08/99 with Sherrod Sturrock.

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

By: Carl Faller
With: Sharrod Sturrock
(Calvert County Capital Project Coordinator – Administration and Finance)
Date: 10/08/99
Subj: Application for Grants and Programs Using the “Rural Village” Designation.

General Speaking:

- 1) First you have to know the type of grant / program you are interested in and then you have to conduct research to find grants / programs in those areas; resources to aid the search include:
 - Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog (lists Federal Programs - Sharrod has a copy she is willing to lend)
 - Red Book (lists State Programs)
 - The Web
 - Calvert County Grants Coordinator (Kathy Branch - new employee to start 10/11/99)
- 2) After a grant / program of interest has been identified, then to apply you follow that grant's / program's application process. Some grants / programs you apply directly to the host organization, others you apply through the parent county. Example:
 - Department of Environment allows application directly from the community.
 - Department of Natural Resources requires application through the parent county.
- 3) The “private community” label and ownership will most likely be a disqualifier for most grants / programs. It may not be so for low interest loan programs.

Other Details / Information:

- For starters recommended contacting State Office of Neighborhood Revitalization (contact Para Clifford 410-209-5819)
- Department of Environment (takes application directly from community) - Has programs for Storm Water Management
- Housing and Community Development (have to apply through the county) – Has programs for Day Care, Community Centers, Disabled, Youth Centers, etc
- Department of State Highway would know about road grants / programs but the private community status most likely will result in an immediate disqualification.
- When I inquired about programs for open space, Sharrod noted that the county was working on a project to retire unbuildable lots at tax sale and to purchase unbuildable lots to reduce build out.