Sustainable Community Application 2015

I. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITYAPPLICANT INFORMATION

Name of Sustainable Community	ty:			
Rock Hall Sustainable Community	<u> </u>			
Name of Applicant:				
Town of Rock Hall				
Applicant's Federal Identification N	umber: 52-60015	72		
Applicant's Street Address: P.O. Bo	ox 367, 5585 Main	Street		
City: Rock Hall C	ounty: Kent	State: MD	Zip Code: 2	1661
Phone Number: 410-639-7611 F	ax Number: 410-	639-7298 We	b Address: w	ww.rockhallmd.com
Sustainable Community Application	Local Contact:			
Name: Margaret R. Parry	Title: Projec	t Manager		
Address: 5859 N. Main St.	City: Rock	Hall State:	MD Zip C	ode: 21661
Phone Number: 410-639-7719	Fax: 410-639	-7298 E-mai	Address: mp	arry2000@verizon.net
Sustainable Community Contact for	Application Status	5:		
Name: Margaret R. Parry	Title: Projec			
Address: 5859 N. Main St.	City:	Rock Hall	State: MD	Zip Code: 21661
Phone Number: 410-639-7719	Fax : 410-63	9-7298 E-mai	Address: mp	arry2000@verizon.net

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B. Organizational Structure, Experience and Public Input:

(1) Describe the Applicant's organizational structure. Specifically, which organizations are members in the **Sustainable Communities Workgroup** and who are the respective staff? Who are the leaders, and how will the Workgroup advisor or staff manage implementation of the SC Area Plan?

The Sustainable Communities Workgroup consists of the Mayor and the Mayor's Cabinet (including the Vice Mayor, Town Manager, Clerk/Treasurer, President of Rock Hall Business Association, Administrator of the Fire Department, Town grant writer) and a dedicated, energetic group of residents with a wide variety of professional skills, talents, expertise and experience. David Dahlstrom of the Maryland Department of Planning also participated regularly, and Mary Kendall and several MHCD interns attended one of our meetings. Both Mr. Dahlstrom and Ms. Kendall have been actively involved, and have helped to shepherd us through the process.

(2) Describe the Applicant organization's past experience in administering revitalization plans and projects. Describe the roles of the members of the **Sustainable Communities Workgroup**, including their experience in implementing revitalization initiatives. What are the strengths and challenges of the capacity of these groups with respect to implementation of the SC Plan?

The Town Manager, Mayor, and project manager, will be primarily responsible for implementation, with the continued involvement of a workgroup, which would be expanded should Rock Hall obtain a Sustainable Community Designation. Our challenge - with a year-round population of approximately 1,200 - will be to find sufficient carrying capacity to implement our action plan. But we are confident that Rock Hall has enough dedicated, capable, committed community members willing to put in the time and effort necessary to move our plans forward, with the leadership and guidance of the principals listed above.

In regard to experience, Ron Fithian has been Rock Hall Town Manager for 18 years, and was re-elected as a Kent County Commissioner recently for an eighth term. He has also been Chairman of the Clean Chesapeake Coalition since 2012. He has had extensive experience in administering and implementing many large-scale projects over the years.

Mayor Brian Jones has been the Lead Technology technician for the Kent County School system since 2001. While serving as President of the Rock Hall Volunteer Fire Company ten years ago he spearheaded the relocation of Rock Hall's outdated firehouse, which included the construction of a new, state-of-the-art fire house, with a large rental hall to host community activities and events. Both Both Mr. Fithian and Mr. Jones are Rock Hall natives.

Project manager Meg Parry has lived in Rock Hall for 14 years and has been writing and implementing grants for a wide variety of organizations for almost 20 years, including Motivational Theatre in Easton, Eastern Shore Area Health Education Center in Cambridge, Chester River Hospital Auxiliary and Chester River Hospital Center, both located in Chestertown.

(3) How did residents and other stakeholders in the community provide input to the Action Plan described below in the next section? On which existing local plans (comprehensive plans, economic development plans, sector plans, etc.) is the Sustainable Communities Action Plan based?

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The Mayor's Cabinet members were invited by the Mayor to join the workgroup. Additional community members were solicited by open invitation at aTown Council meeting and by word-of-mouth. We met once a week for approximately six weeks to put together the action plan. The workgroup did use the updated Comprehensive Plan of 2011 as a loose framework for developing the plan, but also generated many new, original ideas. Citizens who were not a part of the workgroup will have an opportunity to read and comment on the application at the Town Council's October 8, 2015 meeting. In addition, the SCD application will be posted on the Town website.

III. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

The Sustainable Community Action Plan (SC Plan or Plan) is meant to be a multi-year investment strategy – a strategic set of revitalization initiatives and projects that local partners believe will increase the economic vitality and livability of their community, increase prosperity for local households and improve health of the surrounding environment. The Plan should be flexible enough to be updated regularly and renewed every five years as the community envisions new goals. The priority initiatives and projects identified in the action plan are your priorities for improving the livability of community places -- residential, commercial, or other public or private properties – and the sustainability of new work, retail, recreational and housing opportunities for residents. At the same time, the plan should only discuss the strategies that will impact the geographic area targeted for revitalization, so that resources have the best opportunity to have the intended effect. These projects can also be designed to reduce the environmental impact of the community through water and energy resource conservation and management strategies. In this way, the Plan can be a road map for local stakeholders as well as State agencies to work together to create a more a livable and sustainable community.

Please complete the attached matrix.

Sustainable Community Action Plan

Rock Hall Kent County

10/8/2015

(Environmental strengths and weaknesses can include b	<u>Envirc</u> but are not limited to quality of land, water, air, watersheds, tree (infrastructure/management, parks, trails and ree	Environment (Environmental strengths and weaknesses can include but are not limited to quality of land, water, air, watersheds, tree canopy, risk of sea level rise, carbon footprint, energy conservation, access to local foods, green infrastructure, stormwater infrastructure/management, parks, trails and recreation, recycling, water and sewer capacity, etc)	r, access to local foods, green infrastructure, stormwater
Stre	Strengths	Weak	Weaknesses
 Environment as foundation of the Town's economy, a commercial and sport-fishing, hunting, kayaking, cycling) 	Environment as foundation of the Town's economy, generates tourist and recreational activity (recreational boating, mercial and sport-fishing, hunting, kayaking, cycling)	 Rock Hall Harbor needs more regular and consistent maintenance 	nt maintenance
 Three County boat ramps and 40 slips, two protec and work boats, public beach (Ferry Park) 	Three County boat ramps and 40 slips, two protected harbors (Rock Hall Harbor and Swan Creek) for recreational work boats, public beach (Ferry Park)	 Tree canopy along streets only covers 29% of Town 	
 Chesapeake Bay and its abundant wildlife and plant life 	nt life.		
Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies	Action Items	Implementation Partners
Desired Outcome 1: Improve and maintain condition and appearance of Rock Hall Harbor	Contact DNR and nearby Riverkeeper communities to obtain information about water quality testing and monitoring	Educate boaters, waterfront property owners, business owners and citizens about maintenance and upkeep of Rock Hall Harbor	DNR. Town of Rock Hall. Riverkeepers. Center for Watershed
Progress Measure: Water quality testing and monitoring	Encourage the design and operation of buildings to be energy- efficient	Create a Harbor Master position with authority to enforce environmental laws and welcome and orient visiting boaters to the Harbor and available mooring locations	Protection, and other regulatory and non-profit agencies
Desired Outcome 2: To promote and encourage environmental/recreational tourism year-round Progress Measure: Increased lodging, restaurant and service	Perform outreach to promote a diverse educational and recreational eco-tourism program, focusing on the environment and ecology, thereby promoting Rock Hall tourism and creating	Create, market and advertise a year-round calendar of recreational and environment-related events	Washington Colleg Center fo Environment and Society, Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge, Friends of Eastern Neck, Kent County Tourism Office. Kent County Bird Club. Town website
Desired Outcome 3: Increase tree canopy along Rock Hall streets Identify areas where shade trees are most needed	Identify areas where shade trees are most needed		
Progress Measure: Increase in number of shade trees	Identify funding source for planting of trees	Plant trees	DNR, Town of Rock Hall, State of Maryland, Non-profit agencies, Tree-Mendous Maryland
	Find volunteers to plant the trees		
Desired Outcome 4: Add "green" elements to community		Install additional bike racks to encourage bike use	
Progress Measure: Increase in number of "green" elements	Work with SUA and build coalitions with avaate	Research electric trams/trolleys	State Highway Admin., DNR, Maryland Dept. of Transportation,
	אנטרא איננין סירא פווע טעווע טעפוועטווס אינען באףבינס	Investigate possibility of becoming a golf cart (low speed electric vehicle) community for in-town transportation where there is a 25 mph speed limit	Maryland Dept. of Planning, Non-profit agencies
Desired Outcome 5: Reduce water waste and consumption	Work with Town to downloss appropriation monstron		Taking of Book Lat Taking JOW
Progress Measure: Measurement of Consumption	איטוג אונוו וטאוו נט עביפוטף כטווצבו אמנוטוו ווובמצעו בצ	במתרפוב כמוזוווזוזוויא פממתר שפובו כמווזפו אפוומוז וווובוווממא	IOWIT DI NOCK MAII, IOWIT DEW

vie locations	 Need sidewalks, bikepaths and crosswalks at multiple locations 		 Main Street is pedestrian-friendly
n, and dingy docks for boats.	 Lack of bike racks at the beach and throughout Town, and dingy docks for boats 	arbor	 A sidewalk connects the center of town and the Harbor
town or to nearby towns	 Lack of regular year-round transportation either in-town or to nearby towns 		 A seasonal tram service is provided.
esses	Weaknesses	Strengths	Stre
public transit, such as bus and rail, carpooling, proximity to	Transportation (Transportation strengths and weaknesses can include access to transit corridors, pedestrian safety and accessibility/sidewalks, alternative modes of transportation, such as bikeways and trails, public transit, such as bus and rail, carpooling, proximity to transportation centers, parking, road conditions)	Transpo ss to transit corridors, pedestrian safety and accessibility/sidewalk transportation centers, J	(Transportation strengths and weaknesses can include acce
Greater Rock Hall Business Association	Major advertisement of recreational tourist activities within the area (social media, magazines etc.), such as Eastern Neck Island	tourism (Chesapeake Heritage Area)	Progress Measure: Collect data on tourist numbers to estimate increase. Popularity on internet and social media measurable by site visits etc.
Work with County's Director of Tourism Development and	Create local festivals based on special assets of Rock Hall (culture, environment and history, such as a Rock Hall Heritage Festival)	Promote local history, culture and environment as a resource for	Desired Outcome 2: Establish Rock Hall as regional tourist destination offering diverse activities and events for different visitor populations (such as boaters, fishermen, sportsmen, birders)
Maryland Department of Planning	Review zoning code and make amendments if necessary to aoccommodate professional services building/small scale mixed M use		
Community Legacy Grant Program, Maryland Department of Planning, Kent County Economic Development	Investigate why Rock Hall lacks businesses that provide professional services	Provide incentives for development of Main Street and surrounds	
	Send out marketing materials to attract potential new tenants		
groups, Community Legacy Grant Program, Maryland Department of Planning	Conduct survey of town residents to find out their needs Br	Invest in and establish community spaces in and around Main Street	Desiginate a Main Street District
Program Assistance, Rock Hall Business Association, Kent County Economic Development, Office and County Commissioners, the Kent County Chamber of Commerce and other private sector	Pr Maintain website that promotes the Town to small businesses Ec	Keep track of available inventory of suitable properties for conversion/use as office/professional space	Progress Measure: Monitor attraction and retention of new and existing businesses and facade improvements
Maryland Department of Business & Economic Development	Offer incentives such as tenant fit-out grants and loans and facade improvement grants to businesses in town center M	Attract new businesses, such as professional office building with physicians, lawyers' offices, business center such as UPS	Desired Outcome 1: Increase service and retail business to meet needs of residents
Implementation Partners	Action Items	Strategies	Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures
nd for other retail and service providers	 Seasonal or week-end only store hours on Main Street and for other retail and service providers 		Historic Main Street
	 Limited job opportunities 	s, tourism)	 Waterfront as "engine" of economy (local fisheries, tourism)
	 Vacant storefronts 	55	 A wide variety of tourist-oriented outdoor activities
esses	Weaknesses	Strengths	Stre
mployment and economic drivers, local policies/regulations,	ittraction/retention, health of the business district and commercial vacancies, workforce/employment and economic drivers, local policies/regulations, marketing, tourism, cultural and historic assets)	(Economic strengths and weaknesses can include but are not limited to regional accessibility, business attraction/retention, he marketing, tourism, cub	Economic strengths and weaknesses can include but are not
	Economy	Ecor	

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies	Action Items	Implementation Partners
Desired Outcome 1: To increase year-round transportation , both in and out of Town	Expand Delmarva Community Transit service to and from Rock	Survey residents regarding their transportation needs	
Progress Measure: Local residents report improved transportation	Hall	Post DCT schedule on Town website	עמווווווזע עמווויע ורמוזזור, כומדפ הוצחישמץ אטווווווזגע מעטוו
Desired Outcome 2: Installation of sidewalks on Bayside Avenue and additional crosswalks and sidewalks for shoppers along Route 20 commercial strip		Investigate and research potential funding sources for stated infrastructure improvements	
	Share the Road signs on Bayside and between Route 20 marinas and Town	Investigate alternatives to existing transportation	Rock Hall DPW, Kent County DPW, State Highway Admin., Community Legacy Funds, Maryland Dept. of Transportation
Progress Measure: Monitor number of crosswalk, sidewalk and bikepath improvements and signage		Contact SHA district engineer to let him/her know our concerns and priorities for Route 20 commercial district infrastructure	
		Improvements	
	DH	Housing	
Strer	Strengths	Strengths Inventory of Weaknesses	Inventory of Weaknesses
 Inventory of well-maintained, historic homes. 		 Shortage of affordable housing/rental properties 	
 Potential, considering open tracts of land in Town, 	Potential, considering open tracts of land in Town, to construct senior or year-round housing project(s)	 Shortage of affordable housing/rentals. 	
 Rental housing available 		 Lack of medical and professional services in Rock Hall 	Hall
		 An inventory of vacant and abandoned properties 	
Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies	Action Items	Implementation Partners
Desired Outcome 1: Promote a variety of senior care facilities such as independent and assisted living accommodations	Identify and market, with help of realtors, housing assistance programs		Kent County Board of Realtors, DHCD, Maryland Dept. of
Progress Measure: Monitor, with cooperation of realtors and	Identify suitable properties for these projects	Acquire properties and construct/renovate housing projects	Planning, Rock Hall Business Assn, town government, private sector, Rock Hall realtors
developers, number of senior housing facilities available	Identify developers interested in these projects		
Desired Outcome 2: Provide a pool of below-market housing and rentals for residents	Ensure consistency with current zoning code.	Post housing grant information on Town website	
Progress Measure: Monitor, with cooperation of realtors and	Inform realtors and residents about housing start-up grants	Market and advertise above on other media (hand-outs, newspaper article)	
developers, number of "affordable" housing/rental units	Identify and market, with help of realtors, housing assistance programs	Post information about programs on Town website	

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Progress Measure: Monitor, with cooperation of realtors and	Inform realtors and residents about housing start-up grants	Market and advertise above on other media (hand-outs, newspaper article)	
developers, number of "affordable" housing/rental units	Identify and market, with help of realtors, housing assistance programs	Post information about programs on Town website	
Desired Outcome 3: Improve condition of existing housing stock	Ensure compatibility with current zoning	Post information on Town website and use other advertising and	
Progress Measure: Number of rehabilitated houses	Inform realtors and residents about housing assistance opportunities	marketing strategies	

(Strengths and weaknesses can include crime, socio-econo	Quality of Life J (Strengths and weaknesses can include crime, socio-economic demographics, educational opportunities, museums, libraries, h	ife & Society s, historic and cultural assets, civic amenities, faith-based organizations, economic health of households, sense of place, etc)	tions, economic health of households, sense of place, etc)
Strengths	gths	Weak	Weaknesses
 Waterfront community 		 The Town Hall building is aging and out-dated 	
 Local police, fire and EMT coverage 		 Drug and alcohol abuse 	
 Public elementary school located in-town 		 Lack of health care and professional services 	
 Small-town atmosphere 		 Need more public restrooms 	
 Civic Center complex with pavilion, state-of-the-art playground, tennis courts and basketball Town mitchle for unlying and applied 	playground, tennis courts and basketball		
Rich cultural heritage			
Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies	Action Items	Implementation Partners
Desired Outcome 1: Ensure on-going outreach services by University of Maryland's Well Mobile, which provides medical services and education to the community on a regular basis	Investigate new funding sources for Well Mobile	Increase public awareness about the Well Mobile services	University of Maryland, Kent County Health Dept., non-profits
Progress measure: Retention of Well Mobile visits			
	Encourage public art displays throughout Town		
	Convene a focus group of local artists to brainstorm strategies		
performance visual arts and artisans	Create annual art show and student competition	Seek school involvement	School
	Investigate potential locations for an arts and culture building with studios, children's' programs, gallery and performance space		
Desired Outcome 3: Enhance and promote the preservation and recreational use of public open space and natural areas.	Establish a Greenways Program.	Apply to programs for funding.	MDE, Rails-to-Trails, Rock Hall Parks and Recreation
Progress measure: Increased usage of open space and natural areas	Improve public access to the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.	Apply for funding for additional parking and picnic areas	Rock Hall DPW, DNR, Chesapeake Bay (Program/Foundation, etc.
Desired Outcome 4: Promote Rock Hall's heritage	Promote awareness of Rock Hall's history and culture and develop marketable approaches to encourage heritage tourism.	Apply for Stories of the Chesapeake Certified Heritage Area	Maryland Historic Trust
Progress measure: Additional visitation at cultural sites in town	Integrate options for directional signage in the Town identifying key cultural and recreational sites	Develop a wayfinding signage plan and cultural maker plan to identify appropriate locations for signage.	Town of Rock Hall and Rock Hall Parks and Recreation
		Apply for Community Legacy Program	DHCD

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies	Action Items	Implementation Partners
Desired Outcome 5: Obtain the services of a Code Enforcement Check Town Code for existing language regarding code	Check Town Code for existing language regarding code		
Officer	enforcement policies	Code enforcement for violations not covered in zoning code (i.e.,	
Progress measure: Code Enforcement Officer hired	Check with adjacent towns and counties to find out how they enforce town codes	abandoned vehicles on private property)	Town of Rock Hall and Kent and Queen Anne's countles
Desired Outcome 6: Support the town's Rock Hall Against Drugs (RHAD) program and Helping Our Youth Achieve Success (HOYAS) Increase public awareness of these programs initiatives	Increase public awareness of these programs	Obtain funds to support these programs	Town of Rock Hall, HOYAS, Kent County Health Dept.

 Need for additional designated open space 	MD sustainable certified community.
 Town zoning code and Comp Plan need review and potential up-dating Need funding for building preservation activities 	 Wastewater treatment plant has excess capacity. Potential for infill projects.
Weaknesses	Strengths
It are not limited to zoning, land use, policies, taxes and feas, historical patterns of development, lot sizes and sha	(Strangths and weaknesses in the local planning and land use subject area include b

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies	Action Items	Implementation Partners
Desired Outcome 1: Preserve waterfront in perpetuity.		Identify feasible properties for acquisition.	
Progress measure: Total number of properties and easements acquired	consider the additistion of easements of broberty	Develop Master Plan for waterfront	TOWN OF ROCK Hall, UNK, Maryland Dept. of Planning
Desired Outcome 2: Maintain the integrity of existing residential neighborhoods from incompatible adjacent land uses	Improve neighborhood appearance and viability	Review and enforce appropriate regulations	Town of Rock Hall, Kent County Planning
Desired Outcome 3: Strengthen Rock Hall's small town character and historic heritage. Progress measure: Adoption date of design guidelines.	Establish high quality design guidelines for redevelopment and adaptive reuse sites.	Review zoning for compatibility	Town of Rock Hall and Kent County Planning
Desired Outcome 4: Encourage home occupations to provide additional job opportunities Consider amending t Progress measure: Total number of special exception permits for this use administered/ permitted by special exception	Consider amending the Zoning Code to allow low impact home occupations that can be administratively approved or approved by special exception	Review/modify Zoning Code to accommodate home occupations	Town of Rock Hall, Maryland Dept. of Planning



The Town of Rock Hall

P.O. Box 367 ROCK HALL, MARYLAND 21661 410-639-7611 FAX 410-639-7298

March 18, 2021

COVID-19 Abbreviated Application Assessment and Accomplishments Worksheet

- Have there been any significant changes to the size of the community, such as population or through annexation? No. We have not had any recent annexations and population remain the same. Four new single-family houses in the last year.
- 2) Are there any strategy shifts within an Action Plan component? No. Our strategies remain the same as previously submitted and approved.
- 3) Do you request any technical assistance from the State in implementing Sustainable Community Action Plan strategies? Yes If yes, please describe: Currently working with Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, and Maryland Department of Planning to update the Action Plan.
- 4) Have you been awarded any revitalization-related State funds in the past five years? For example, DHCD Community Legacy, DHCD Strategic Demolition Fund, MDOT Community Safety and Enhancement, MDOT Bikeways, MDOT Sidewalk Retrofit, MDE Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund. Yes.
 - a) New Façade on Main Street (DHCD) \$40,000 (Five per year for the last two years)
 - b) Main Street; Sidewalk, Benches, Trash Cans and Improvement to Oyster
 Court (DHCD) \$180,000 (This completed)
- 5) Have you been awarded any federal CARES Act funding and/or State emergency COVID funds? Yes.

If yes, please list name of the program, description of the project and amount of awarded funds: We were reimbursed for CARES Act;

- a) Hazard Pay =\$13,544 (not in Cares Act)
- b) Public Health Expenses = \$ 22,316.34
- c) Non-Public Health = \$18,096.49

- 6) Please list and describe any significant accomplishments over the past five years as a Sustainable Community. Examples may include the launch of a new façade improvement program, number of senior housing repairs, linear feet of sidewalk replaced, etc.
 - a) New Water System Clarifier to improve water quality (USDA/Loan) \$1.2 Mil
 - b) Started new Automated AMI Water Meter project, replace 1000 meter and new Utility billing system (MDE/Loans) - \$998, 000
 - c) Water Quality Project; Water Main/new Well (USDA/Loans) \$1.3 Mil
- 7) Have anticipated needs or strategies shifted during the COVID-19 pandemic? Relatedly, has the ongoing pandemic uncovered community needs previously undetected? Yes
 - a) If yes, please describe: as we open our Town, we need to supply safety at our Public beaches, playgrounds, parks and baseball fields, tennis and basketball courts. Need to improve transportation in a safe manner.
 - b) Town businesses must allow for safe shopping and eating related to State regulations

Robert Resele Town Manager (410) 639-7611 Ext. 103 rresele@rockhallmd.gov