



NORTH KINGSTOWN

POST ROAD FACADE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

CRITERIA AND APPLICATION PROCESS

Background:

The North Kingstown Town Council has adopted an Ordinance creating the Post Road Facade Improvement Program (PRFIP) to encourage improvement and investment in the overall revitalization of Post Road. Funds shall be utilized to finance exterior improvements to a property that will be aesthetically pleasing and contribute to the overall beautification of the Post Road District. Any proposed improvement must be visible from and fronting Post Road. The Post Road District shall run from Frenchtown Road to the intersection of Post Road and West Main Street.

A. Program Purpose:

The purpose of the PRFIP is to provide a financial incentive to business owners located on Post Road and to provide an opportunity to upgrade the exterior of their building and their premises. The program is designed to retain and attract businesses, increase utilization of existing properties and buildings, and enhance economic vitality and property values.

B. Program Administration:

The program will be administered on a first come first serve basis through June 30, 2020. Priority will be given to applications for adjoining parcels. All improvements shall be in conformance with the Post Road Design Guidelines (Section 14.3 of the Land Development and Subdivision Regulations).

C. Funding:

The Town of North Kingstown is the funding authority for this program. The program provides a reimbursement grant for up to 50% of the cost of construction in an amount not to exceed \$20,000. Approved applications are limited to \$20,000 cumulatively per parcel. Applications from parcels that have multiple businesses/structures on the parcel can be considered for greater than \$20,000 subject to available funding.

All taxes and assessments must be current at the time of application. **ORDINARY REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE, IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRED AS A RESULT OF CODE VIOLATIONS OR OTHER EXPENDITURES DEEMED INELIGIBLE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ARE EXCLUDED. Funding for the PRFIP will be subject to appropriation during the annual budget process.

D. Eligible Uses and Reimbursement Coverage:

- Permanent landscaping (i.e. trees and perennials) that adds to the aesthetics of the property and surrounding properties will be heavily prioritized
- Repair, replacement or restoration of facade masonry, brickwork, or wood
- Painting or exterior surface treatment (stucco, tile, stone, or brick replacement or repair)
- Outdoor seating area design and construction where practicable (furnishings not included)
- Awnings, canopies, or sunshades
- Outdoor lighting including the property owner's share of the cost of implementing National Grid incentive programs
- Installation or repair of decorative fencing
- Installation, replacement or repair of windows
- Installation, replacement or repair of cornices, eaves, and other architectural features
- Redesign or reconstruction of entranceway or storefront
- Signage
- Cost of landscape design assistance: any design assistance must be coordinated with the plans from the Department of Transportation regarding the installation of sidewalks on both sides of Post Road from Camp Avenue to West Main Street as identified in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

E. Application Process and Review:

All materials are available on the town website:

<http://www.northkingstown.org/DocumentCenter/View/2076/PRFIP-application>

1. A completed PRFIP application shall be submitted to the Department of Planning and Development.

2. Application review will be conducted by Planning Staff and the Building Official within 30 days. Applicant may be asked to meet with staff to discuss proposal details.
3. If approved, work shall commence within 60 days. Municipal permitting fees for said work shall be waived.
4. If rejected, the Department of Planning and Development will issue a letter of explanation within 30 days. An applicant may submit an application a maximum of twice in one year.

F. Reimbursement Process

Approved applicants shall document all expenditures and provide proof of payment to licensed contractors (receipts, paid invoices, etc.) for all eligible improvements within 30 days of completion. Once construction is complete, staff will ensure that all work is in compliance with approvals. Reimbursement checks shall be issued by the Department of Planning and Development directly to the Applicant.

Adopted at the Town Council Meeting on 3/5/2018.

Amended at the Town Council meeting on 5/6/2019