**NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS (NOIRROF)**

December 1, 2023

Town of Athol

584 Main Street

Athol, MA 01331

Telephone (978) 721-8453

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS AND PERSONS;

On or about December 15, 2023, the Town of Athol will submit a request to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) for the release of FY 2022-23 Community Development Block Grant funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 as amended, for the purpose of the following project:

* **Canal & Lumber Improvement Project:** Improvements to public infrastructure including replacement of water mains, rehabilitation of sewer mains, resurfacing of paved roadway and sidewalk surfaces and improved pedestrian crossings on Lumber Street, Johnson Street, Canal Street (except the portion crossing Mill Brook), and the segment of Freedom Street between Canal Street and Main Street.

The listed activity is categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determination for these activities is on file at the Department of Planning & Development, Athol Town Hall, 584 Main Street, Athol, MA and may be examined or copied on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. and Tuesdays from 8:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. with prior arrangement by calling (978) 721-8453.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Athol Planning & Development office. All comments received by December 14, 2023 will be considered by the Town of Athol prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Athol Board of Selectmen certifies to the EOHLC that Shaun Suhoski, Town Manager, in his official capacity as Environmental Certifying Officer, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The EOHLC’s approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the Town of Athol to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The EOHLC will accept objections to its release of funds and the Town of Athol’s certification for a period of fifteen (15) days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases:

(a) The certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Town of Athol;

(b) The Town of Athol has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58;

(c) The grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by the EOHLC; or

(d) Another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality.

Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 55.76) and shall be addressed to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities at 100 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114. Potential objectors should contact the EOHLC to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Shaun Suhoski

Environmental Certifying Officer

Town of Athol

584 Main Street

Athol, MA 01331