

Main Street Skowhegan January 2011  
Draft Template for Economic Restructuring/ Downtown Planning



*Instructions: please feel free to fill in as much detail as you know-this is a first draft only*

Project Name:

Somerset Grist Mill project

Project Type: Infrastructure, Economic Development, Waterfront Development, Public Health, Tourism, Historic Preservation, Agriculture food hub development.

Summary:

History:

The Somerset Grist Mill LLC owners purchased the former Somerset County Jail building in 2008 with plans to develop the site as a grist mill processing locally grown grains. In addition to the grist mill the project envisions the development of a bakery, local foods mill store, and arts complex in the center of downtown to create jobs and add vitality to the downtown, placing the building back on the tax rolls, and supporting local businesses and farmers.

Progress to Date:

To date the building has been purchased and some renovations have been accomplished including newly renovated access to the building on two sides. Rental space has been mostly renovated for occupancy by a tenant on a portion of the main floor of the building. Milling equipment has been purchased with the assistance of a CDBG grant from the State of Maine Department of Economic and Community Development.

Timeline for next phase:

The next phase of the project is to build water and electric infrastructure to accommodate the grist mill and other potential stand alone renters. The building will need some extensive restructuring to facilitate the moving and placement of the milling equipment.

Collaboration partners and lead agency/individual:

Partners include Somerset Economic Development Corp, The Town of Skowhegan and various foundations and government agencies associated with the agriculture industry.

existing plans, specs and data:



## Scope of Work by phase

### Cost (total and breakdown, if possible)

Estimated costs of renovating the building is \$400,000. In addition there are estimated costs to establish various programs and projects within the building that are not related directly to the grist mill, e.g. commercial kitchen upgrades, canopy for the farmers market to allow year round operation, wholesale distribution and CSA program.

### Jobs created:

### Public health, education, quality of life benefit:

The establishment and strengthening of a local foods industry cluster in Skowhegan will create an opportunity for more people to participate in the benefits of eating local foods that will generally be free of chemicals used in the growing and processing of large scale farming and processing systems.

Part of the project envisions the design and implementation of food hub education programs which would utilize community garden space, local kitchen and on site wood fired ovens.

### Historic significance:

### Public Participation and sponsors (historically and/or potentially)

State of Maine DECD, USDA Rural Development, Town of Skowhegan, Somerset Economic Development Corp.

### Public and Municipal impact

### Presented by: