

Wallingford ARPA Committee Meeting Minutes (AMENDED)
February 15, 2022

Committee Members Present: Ann Awad, Bruce Dobbins, Elicia Pinsonault, James Bagnall, Robert Allen

Others Present: Sarah Wicker

Ann Awad called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Agenda Additions/Deletions: Bruce Dobbins requested to provide an update to the group about the Select Board meeting he attended after the Elfin Lake agenda item.

Review and Approve Minutes: Robert Allen made a motion that was seconded by Bruce Dobbins to approve the ARPA Committee meeting minutes from January 18. Motion carried (4-0). James Bagnall abstained from voting because he was not in attendance at January's meeting.

Public Comment: Sarah Wicker has been identified as a potential committee member to fill the vacant seat. She is from South Wallingford and attended the meeting to learn more and express her interest in serving.

Follow-Up on Elfin Lake: Carol Macleod was connecting with Eric Hall at the Rutland Region Planning Commission. Bruce Dobbins hasn't received any updates after introducing them via email.

Select Board Meeting Update: Sarah asked if it was expected that all committee members would attend Select Board meetings. The Committee determined that a representative should be there to represent the Committee at each meeting in case ARPA is discussed.

Bruce Dobbins shared what he viewed the process as with the Select Board. He noted that a mission statement would be presented and that the group asked about the Committee's procedure going forward. Bruce Dobbins shared that the Committee is going to begin soliciting feedback to explore additional community needs, with a submission period open for at least a month. The Committee will deliver the draft mission statement to the Select Board in the coming weeks. The Committee will begin drafting a list of stakeholders we would like to attend a future meeting to discuss specific topics (like infrastructure, public health, etc.).

Robert Allen asked for clarification on using the funds to support the General Fund for loss of revenue per an email from the Town Administrator. Elicia Pinsonault noted that Rutland City is exploring the possibility of doing something similar.

Finalize Mission Statement: Committee brainstormed clarifying language about "final ruling" to eliminate any confusion.

The updated draft mission statement reads:

"Using the United States Treasury guidance, conduct a needs assessment that considers priorities of the three communities that make up our Town and develop recommendations to the Select Board for the allocation of the ARPA funds."

Robert Allen made a motion that was seconded by Bruce Dobbins to approve the draft mission statement as presented. Motion Carries (5-0).

General Criterion for Public Announcement: Bruce Dobbins and Elicia Pinsonault will meet to discuss what this would encompass and will bring it forward at the next meeting for review. Ann Awad will confirm with the Town Administrator that this doesn't violate Vermont's Open Meeting Laws.

Targeted Areas of Focus for Public Input: This will be included in the guidance for the public announcement. Bruce Dobbins noted that he believes the select board appears to be in favor of not providing personal payments to individuals. If so, the committee should explicitly state that no personal payments to individuals will be made with the funding in any public announcement.

ARPA Committee Vacancy: Ann Awad recommended Sarah Wicker for appointment to the Committee. Bruce Dobbins made a motion that was seconded by Robert Allen to recommend the Select Board appoint Sarah Wicker to fill the vacancy. Motion Carried (5-0).

Other Business: None

Agenda Building: Ann Awad recommended convening in two weeks. At the next meeting, the group will discuss the public input process established by the temporary sub-committee. Bruce Dobbins recommended the Committee invite Eric Hall to the next meeting to clarify some of the ARPA regulations and guidelines.

Adjourn: Bruce Dobbins made a motion that was seconded by James Bagnall to adjourn at 7:15 p.m. Motion Carried (5-0).