

**Wallingford ARPA Committee Meeting Minutes (FINAL)**  
**May 17, 2022**

**Committee Members Present:** Peg Soule, Ann Awad, Bruce Dobbins, Elicia Pinsonault, Jim Bagnall, Robert Allen, Grey Wicker

**Others Present:** John Armstrong (Wallingford Energy Committee)

Peg Soule called the meeting to order at 6:41 p.m.

Additions/deletions to agenda: none

Approving Minutes from March 15, 2022: Motion Carries (7-0)

Public Comment: John Armstrong from Wallingford Energy Committee is interested in the work the ARPA Committee is doing and wants to learn more. The Energy Committee is brainstorming potential projects that could be funded.

Rutland Planning Commission Update: Bob Allen connected with Eric Hall of the Rutland Regional Planning Commission, who recommended that the town adopts the provision to move the ARPA funds into the General Fund. Bob asked if there was any reason a town wouldn't make this decision and Eric couldn't think of one. Eric called the provision a "golden ticket." The benefits are that the amount is presumed to be correct so there would be no audit in the future, streamlined reporting for the town, satisfying the ARPA requirements, and giving the town more flexibility on projects to fund.

Bob attended the select board meeting on April 18, where the board made a motion that 100% of the ARPA grant funding would be treated as lost revenue. This one-time election had to be done by April 30 and is irrevocable.

Bob is going to brainstorm recommendations on where the town should allocate these funds: special account, general fund, etc.

Select board Meeting Update: The board sent the ARPA Committee a letter asking us to set aside approximately \$85,000 for the School Street sidewalk. The Sidewalk Committee reported about the need for School Street, the other area of need is the sidewalk going down to Depot Street. Substantial matching funds are required for School Street, and with matching funds, it's more likely to get approved. It's seen to be more important because of the school and traffic associated, winter conditions, and people walking in street – access to Wallingford House, Town Hall, Lenny Burke, etc. The select board approved going forward with the project and using the ARPA funds to match.

Welcome Grey Wicker to Committee: Peg will check select board minutes to make sure Grey was officially appointed to the ARPA Committee.

Review of Public Announcement and Application: Bruce Dobbins made a motion that was seconded by Grey Wicker to send the application and public announcement to the Town Administrator for distribution as amended. Motion Carries (7-0). Elicia Pinsonault will connect with Town Administrator and see if she has recommendations about what format will make the most sense.

The group discussed having a rolling review process and inviting select groups who have applied to come to speak to the Committee. Everyone who submitted a project is welcome to come to discuss it during public comment, for a brief period (suggested to be three minutes by Ann Awad).

The application will be available from early June through November 1, 2022.

The communications sub-committee is going to meet to begin developing a matrix to make sure applications are assessed using the same rules and criteria.

Agenda Building:

- SB Updates
- Public Comment
- Approval of Minutes
- Update of Process – submission of the final version
- Look at Matrix – Draft Matrix.
- List of applications we've received and status; Google spreadsheet – recurring
- Project valuation process | what will it cost? How do we make sure that's correct?

Adjourn: Ann Awad made a motion that we seconded by Bruce Dobbins to adjourn at 8:13 p.m. Motion Carried (7-0).

Next Meeting Date: June 21, 2022