

Wallingford ARPA Committee Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2022

Committee Members Present: Robert Allen, Ann Awad, Bruce Dobbins, Elicia Pinsonault, Peg Soule

Others Present: Carol Macleod

Bruce Dobbins called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Nominate/Elect: Bruce Dobbins made a motion that was seconded by Robert Allen to nominate Peg Soule as Committee Chair. Motion carried (4-0).

Peg Soule made a motion to nominate Ann Awad as Committee Chair. Motion not seconded; motion failed.

Bruce Dobbins made a motion that was seconded by Robert Allen to nominate Ann Awad as Committee Vice Chair. Motion carried (4-0).

Bruce Dobbins made a motion that was seconded by Ann Awad to nominate Elicia Pinsonault to take meeting minutes. Motion carried (4-0).

Agenda Additions/Deletions: None

Set the Day and Time of Monthly Meetings: The ARPA Committee will meet on the third Tuesday of each month from 6:30-8 p.m. at the Wallingford Town Hall. Bruce Dobbins will open the building 10-15 minutes prior to each meeting.

Public Comment: Carol Macleod attended on behalf of the Wallingford Conservation Committee. She noted there are problems with the beach at Elfin Lake, particularly the erosion of sand that is going into the lake. This is impacting wildlife and vegetation and will only get worse if something isn't done to correct it.

The Conservation Committee is applying for a planning grant through the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources to help determine the cost to fix these challenges. Carol Macleod questioned if ARPA funding could cover activities like this. Bruce Dobbins is going to call Eric Hall at the Rutland Regional Planning Commission to connect Eric and Carol and will provide an update at next month's meeting.

Mission Statement: Committee discussed the creation of a mission statement, which will be drafted and sent to the Wallingford Select Board for approval. The Committee discussed challenges including how to make all three communities (South Wallingford, East Wallingford, and the village) feel included when each has different needs.

Ann Awad drafted a mission statement that Peg Soule will share among Committee Members to review so feedback can be provided at the next meeting.

Application Process/Public Input on Use of Funds: Bruce Dobbins shared that the Committee will need to establish an application process that will take the three communities into consideration, looking at each project and how they could fit into the mission once it's approved.

Bruce Dobbins shared the list of recommended ARPA projects that came from the first round of public input that was provided by Town Administrator Sandi Switzer. Ann Awad recommended that the Committee invites various community members to a future meeting to discuss their project proposals on specific areas (public health, negative economic impact, etc.).

At Bruce Dobbins' recommendation, the Committee agreed that more public input was needed. Peg Soule recommended sharing the mission on Front Porch Forum and the Town website when it's finalized, what qualifies for funding, and the process for submitting additional recommendations. The goal is to have the Select Board approve the mission in February and to begin soliciting additional recommendations by the end of February or early March. Solicitation of public input would be collected for at least 30 days.

Other Business: The Committee set the agenda for the next meeting.

Adjourn: Robert Allen made a motion that was seconded by Bruce Dobbins to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. Motion carried (5-0).