

Town of Wallingford, Vermont
American Rescue Plan Committee of the Select Board
Minutes of the Meeting of August 23, 2022

The meeting convened at 6:35 PM.

Present as members for the Committee: Jim Bagnall, Bruce W. Dobbins, Bob Allen, Peg Soule, Anne Awad

There were no members of the public present.

There were no suggestions for addition or deletion to the Agenda.

The minutes of the meeting of July 19, 2022 were unanimously approved.

There was no public comment.

Bruce Dobbins and Jim Bagnall gave a brief report of the Select Board meeting where ARPA was discussed. The Select Board asked what our committee would do with the original ARPA requests from last September's meeting with the public. The Town Administrator reported that she had directly contacted most people who attended but could not locate several. The Select Board discussed use of ARPA funds to mitigate traffic and noise on Route 7. There was some discussion at this meeting that the Select Board could put in requests for all of the ARPA money.

Peg Soule reported that the Town Newsletter will include an announcement of the application. The newsletter goes out tomorrow.

Project Valuation: There was discussion about how the committee members could assess the applications when some financial estimates were noted in the applications as coming from "knowledgeable people". It was noted that projects finally approved would be asked by the Town to provide three estimates. For this committee, some kind of contractor estimate should be required.

Draft Matrix: The committee decided that the "Level of Impact" column should be left blank until all members read and rank applications. Committee consensus should assign the level of Low-Medium-High in this column.

It was noted that some ARPA money might be available from the state for such things as cell phone service, transportation (crosswalks, etc). Peg Soule will ask Sandi Swizler if there is a

state site that explains ARPA and provides a guide as to what is available/eligible for certain sources. Emergency funding would, hopefully, come from the state.

Confidentiality: There was discussion about Open Meeting Law and how it applies to applications for AARPA funding. Some complaints have been received as to Committee members talking in town about various applications and details of those applications. The Committee members assume that the applications received are public documents but Peg Soule will clarify this with Sandi Swizler.

There was discussion about how applicants could show they have investigated other sources of funding.

At the September meeting, members will discuss each application to identify needs for further information. Applicants will be notified and given time to return requested items. The goal is to review all applications in November and to rank them and refer recommendations to the Select Board by the end of the calendar year. A final review of the matrix will also be part of the September meeting.

At the next meeting will be Tuesday, September 27, 2022.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM by unanimous vote.