

Wallingford ARPA Committee Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)
September 27, 2022

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

Others Present: Jill Stone-Teer, Cecile Betit, Phil Lidstone, Curtis Lidstone

Peg called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Additions/deletions to agenda: None

Approving Minutes from August 23: Bruce made a motion that was seconded by Ann to approve the minutes of August 23. Motion carried (5-0). Elicia abstained because she did not attend the last meeting.

Public Comment: Jill shared a letter on behalf of the South Wallingford Water Company to ensure the true impact was shared in their application. While the repairs would directly impact two homes, the repair also impacts the remaining 25 homes (50+ people). The group, including Phil and Curtis, shared information about conversations they've had with the State and how they would fine the South Wallingford Water Co. and eventually shut down the water system due to overage of allowed gallons of water per year. Residents would be forced to drill wells if this happened. The group confirmed the total for the work that was recently completed. Bruce added that this is an environmental issue too, as it's believed the excess chlorinated water was returning to Otter Creek.

Cecil Betit from East Wallingford and Jill discussed emergency communications within town and if the committee could support a needs assessment. There is no information about who has cell service in town, owns a landline, etc. and there needs to be some baseline for the town to know what needs to be done. Bruce noted the Town should approach the Rutland Regional Planning Commission about this topic and see if there is funding/resources to compete this. Jim noted there are conversations happening in other regional emergency groups and will follow up on those conversations and report back to best determine next steps.

Selectboard Meeting Update: None

Update on Announcement and Application: Peg continues to share ARPA reminders in the Town newsletter and on Front Porch Forum.

Listing of Applications and Status: There are 10 applications total with more expected in the coming weeks.

Project valuation: None

Matrix Review: Discussed in review of applications for completeness.

Review of Applications for Completeness:

Peg brought cost estimate for library roof. Bruce will scan and share that document via email along with the map provided by Jill this evening.

The group discussed updating the evaluation matrix to include a range of 1-5 for the first two categories (Perceived need, the projected community served)

Bob asked if the committee is going to recommend funding all projects if there is money left over, or put forward the ones that should be supported in the order the committee feels is best. The committee agreed that we only recommend projects for funding, but will share all projects with the Selectboard so they know the full extent of what was received.

Peg is going to ask Sandi to connect with those who have completed the application to collect missing information before the next meeting.

Other business: Peg followed up on the cell tower fund and how it's designated for town buildings – funding could be used for weatherization in the Town Hall's basement.

Peg talked to Sandi about an ARPA application and funding specifics as it pertains to a person's income. VLCT was consulted and shared that no information we collect is protected information, everything is public information. Personal information would be redacted, but not financial information. The committee or Sandi will share this with the applicant.

Agenda Building:

- Evaluation process
- Updates on announcement/application
- Project valuation
- List of applications and status
- Matrix review
- Selectboard update

Adjourn: Bruce made a motion that was seconded by Jim to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m. Motion Carried (6-0)

Next Meeting Date: October 18, 6:30 p.m.