

Wallingford ARPA Committee Meeting Minutes January 17, 2023

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

Others Present: Ken Welch (Wallingford Energy Committee)

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

Additions/deletions to agenda: None

Approving Minutes from November 15: Bruce made a motion that was seconded by Ann to approve the minutes from November 15. Motion carried (5-0).

Public Comment: Ken Welch answered questions that the committee had, particularly about the reasoning behind submitting different applications for the energy work at town hall, confirming the committee had the most recent energy audit results, and specific plans noted in the proposals. Ken noted that newly announced state funds could be applied for to cover the cost, but there was no deadline, or confirmed date for awarding funds, and reimbursement would not likely be an option. He also noted that there is enough money in the building fund (from cell tower proceeds) to cover most of the work.

Select Board Report: None

VLCT Meeting Review: Ann and Bruce attended a recent Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) meeting attended by many state agencies to learn more about additional State ARPA funding available. Some projects that align with the proposals submitted include funding to renovate town halls, a cybersecurity grant, inventory loans for water systems, and no-cost consulting. There is State funding set aside for fire departments, electric vehicle charging stations, and several other areas including childcare, agriculture, water, and waste. Bruce noted that there will be more demand for State funding than what is available. The committee agreed that we should not direct people to apply for state funding instead of local ARPA funding as no deadline has been set and there is no guarantee that funding will be granted to projects submitted. Bruce is going to connect with Devin Neary at the Rutland Regional Planning Commission to try and get a list of state agency participants and contacts.

Review of Applications for Completeness: Bruce provided updates regarding the completeness of several projects. The committee is missing information from the Fire District and identified questions it would like to ask the owner of Main Street Café. Peg is going to ask the Town Administrator to connect with the Water District and give them a deadline to submit the missing information before the next meeting and is going to invite the owner of Main Street Café to the next meeting to get questions answered.

Recommendation to Select Board: The committee went through each proposal and evaluated it for funding. We came up with an initial list of projects we would like to recommend to the Select Board. The committee will evaluate the remaining projects based on additional information received at the next

meeting and will begin to identify the funding recommended for each proposal prior to sharing recommendations with the Select Board.

Other business: None

Agenda Building: Review of applications for completeness, allocation of funding, plus usual standing items

Adjourn: Ann made a motion that was seconded by Bob to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m. Motion Carried (5-0).

Minutes Approved: March 21, 2023