

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (A.R.P.A.) FUNDS
DISTRIBUTION PLANNING COMMITTEE

Minutes of January 28, 2024 meeting

Meeting was called to order at 7pm. Committee members present:

Alex Bresnick, Lenore Bresnick, Jeff Dexter, Todd Lawrence, Irene Nadler, Martin Nadler, Dave Pollack, Peter Van Vleck. Absent: Don Bierwirth.

Others in attendance: Andrew McKeever, Bruce Matteson, Michael King.

Meeting was called to order at 7pm.

Members of the Committee were introduced.

Minutes were approved as presented.

The Chair reviewed all of the items included on the list of suggestions for funding. A correction was made to change "life saving equipment" to "personal protection equipment."

Public Participation: Mike King, Arlington Volunteer Fire Chief made another request for A.R.P.A. funds—\$3000 to supplement and complete funding for firefighting standpipes to be installed at the Hill Farm Rd and Sunderland Hill Rd (near the Transfer Station) bridges to draw water from the river to fight fires.

Bruce asked if the Committee had explored the wetlands borders as they relate to Town office property and if space for parking had been considered. The Select Board will have to explore these issues if they choose to move forward on any projects on town property.

The proposed survey was discussed next. The five criteria were expanded to include examples for clarification. Dave asked for clarification as to whether the survey should also be soliciting additional suggestions from the community. He also suggested that the community consider spending the funds on a single large project such as the rehabilitation of the Sunderland Union Church for use as a Community Center. The chair stated that alternative sources of funding for such a project have already been discussed and Peter stated that he believes the land parcel is too small to have a septic system. This would severely limit or preclude use as a public facility.

As Jeff reported that the Energy Committee survey was not near ready Peter suggested we not wait to be part of the Energy Committee survey. Our survey will be sent to each Sunderland household with a return envelope. There would also be a drop off box at Town Office. The turnaround time for the survey would be two weeks so the results would be available for Town Meeting. Survey results tabulation methods were discussed. Lenore suggested that %ile ranking of V, S and N responses can be determined to facilitate understanding of the results.

The chair reported that the cost of all of the suggested uses for the A.R.P.A. funds do not reach the sum of their available funds. He suggested that some or all of the suggestions be forwarded to the Select Board for their immediate consideration. After discussion, Alex made a motion and it was seconded to forward the five low cost items-Cemetery commission funds, outdoor bulletin boards, support for the 2025 community visit, financing the Sunderland Welcome signs, Funds to facilitate the installation of firefighting standpipes- to the Select Board for their immediate consideration and the remaining large expense items be held over until the results of the community survey be considered by the Select Board. Bruce asked the Committee to consider Grants as possible funding sources for these projects. The chair responded that it is the Select Board's responsibility to seek alternate and additional funding sources but would remind the Select Board of that avenue of consideration.

Bruce asked the Committee to consider using the funds to pave the remainder of North Road. Alex asked Bruce if the Town had a paving plan in place. Bruce responded there was a plan in place.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22pm.

Next meeting on February 4, 2024 @ 7pm