

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

**Minutes of January 21, 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: Michael King, Rick Timmerman, Maria Timmerman, Leslie Perra, Michael Perra.

The Committee was introduced to the Community in attendance.

Alex Bresnick made the motion to accept the minutes of 1/14 as presented. Irene Nadler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Public Participation:** Michael King, Sunderland resident and Chief of the Arlington F.D., expanded upon the request for ARPA funds to support Arlington Fire and Rescue Squad. He believed the most effective use of any provided ARPA funds would be to provide replacement turnout gear and air packs for firefighters. Each full set of turnout gear and air pack would cost  $\pm$  \$17,000.

Leslie and Michael Perra as well as Maria and Rick Timmerman commented on the inappropriateness of using ARPA funds for projects at the Transfer Station as it is private property owned by Cassella.

Dave Pollack brought up the issue of the Cemetery Trust Fund and whether those funds could be used for completing the project. Rick Timmerman indicated that the Cemetery Commission Trust Fund held  $\pm$  \$100,000.

**Committee Discussion:** The Fieldhouse suggestion was deleted from the list to be considered due to its significant cost and a question of viable location.

The camera for the covered bridge was deleted from the list of suggestions due to the lack of necessity.

The acquisition of power tools and recreational equipment were removed from consideration because of liability issues and a lack of a distribution/collection procedure.

Use of ARPA funds for repair of the Sunderland Union Church was felt to be inappropriate due to its non-public status and a lack of clarity as to a clear title.

Provision of Government services was struck from the list as the Committee believes ARPA funds should be utilized for the betterment of the community as it relates to the core criteria rather than to support government operation and provision of government services.

The suggestions remaining on the list for consideration include:

A pavilion or gazebo, possibly with a picnic area and small recreation area, e.g., horseshoe pit, bocce court;

A crushed gravel walking path around the Town Hall perimeter;

\$2500 for the Cemetery commission to finish their project;

funding for the Arlington Fire and Rescue Squad;

outdoor glass enclosed, locking bulletin boards for Town Office and Transfer Station;

town facility to store and protect heavy equipment;

Finance Sunderland Welcome signs;

\$2000 to support Council on Rural Development visit in 2025;

offset local taxes.

Discussion will continue at the next meeting about the possibility of recommending suggestions listed below to the Select Board for funding consideration at an early date:

\$2500 to the Cemetery Commission

Glass covered, locking outdoor bulletin boards

Sunderland Welcome Signs

\$2000 for Community Visit

A Community Survey will continue to be discussed at the next meeting.

The Chair will investigate the purpose and use of the \$101,000 Cemetery Commission Trust fund.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.