

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

Minutes of January 14, 2024 meeting

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

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

Others in attendance: Dixie Zens, Bill Budde, Scott York, Colleen York, Rick Timmerman, Maria Timmerman, Andrew McKeever, Richard Gadlad (sp.?), Brian Mattison, Leslie Perra, Nick Perra.

The Committee was introduced to the Community in attendance.

The charge and mission of the Committee was presented - to consider the ideas for use of ARPA funds and recommend, in rank order, those ideas the Committee thinks the Select Board should consider funding.

The Committee packet was explored and each section explained to the community with information as to where to find the enclosed information for themselves.

Each of the already suggested ideas for use of ARPA funds was then shared with the Committee and the community. Each Item was presented as it was received, with neither support or opposition by the Committee. Four of the presented items were discussed in detail by supporters of the item-

1. Request for \$2500. by Bill Budde, representing the cemetery commission to complete the project begun with the \$750. Initial ARPA fund grant;
2. a request for funds, ranging from approximately \$89,000 to \$110,000, presented by Dixie Zens, for a pavilion, fire pit, picnic tables placed at Town Hall;

3. a request for a pole barn, to house and protect from the elements, Sunderland Town Road heavy equipment. It was felt by the supporters that this would protect the town's investment in these expensive items;
4. the bike path and bicycle repair station(s) were not being requested at this time as funding for the next section of path (to Bacon Hollow Rd) was in place and funding for further extension has not yet begun. However, there was significant support for the bike path concept as it is also used by many residents as a safe walking path on Sunderland Holl Road. Colleen York, speaking for the Bike Path, stated that any consideration the Committee might provide for assisting in the future funding of the continuing expansion of the Bike path would be appreciated.

A list of all suggested ideas is attached.

The Committee then discussed Core Criteria for exploring and considering ideas for ARPA funds use. Five Core Criteria were agreed upon:

1. Efficiently or fiscally improves the Town;
2. improves the quality of life for the Town and its residents;
3. supports and improves the health and safety of the community;
4. improves the Town's infrastructure;
5. supports and enhances the Town's historical and cultural features.

A survey to discover the Town residents' ranking of the Core Criteria as a consideration in the committee's deliberations was discussed and it was agreed that a survey of that nature would become a section of a Townwide survey being distributed by the Energy Committee and an additional survey will be distributed through The PublicForum.com.

Next Public Meeting: January 21, 2024 @7pm, Sunderland Town Hall

SUBMITTED SUGGESTIONS FOR USE OF ARPA FUNDS

Outdoor pavilion with bbq stations and fire pits on Town Office property

Greenspace at Town office property with outdoor recreation equipment

Fieldhouse type indoor facility with indoor swimming pool

\$2500 additional funding to Cemetary commission to complete project

Funding for Arlington Rescue Squad and Volunteer Fire Department

Camera on Covered Bridge for liability purposes

Acquire power tools and recreation equipment to lend to residents

Financial support for roof repair of the Sunderland Union Church

New Town facility(pole barn?) to protect Town's heavy equipment

Add roof covering to Tansfer Station dumpsters; add appropriate signage at Transfer Station; add free standing, glass covered, locking bulletin board

Provision of government services

Offset local taxes

Finance Sunderland Welcome Signs

\$2000 to Support "Community Visit"