

ARPA Funding Advisory Committee

Monday, October 3, 7:00 PM

Holley Hall and Remote

Present: Kris Perlee, Alison DaBica, Mike Dash, Porter Knight, Elizabeth Blair, Helen Young (CC), Diane Cushman, Robert Rooker (PC); John McCormick (EC); Valerie Capels (Town Administrator), Ian Albinson (SB), Jessica Teets

Meeting Notes

1. Reviewed and approved the September meeting notes [Helen motioned; Kris seconded; all approved].
2. Jessica Teets and her qualitative methods class at Middlebury coded all the suggestions for source of idea (postcard, survey, focus group, etc.), and for the type of idea (recreation, housing, infrastructure, etc.) for the committee.
3. Discussed the great community feedback– over 500 ideas! Expressed commitment to making sure that all ideas (funded or not by ARPA) are shared with other groups, organizations or entities in town who might be able to implement them. Stressed importance of amplifying communications, marketing, networking and collaboration of existing programs and services to ensure that community members are aware of and can access what already exists – this might be a good use of ARPA funds – helping facilitate communication and collaboration – rather than spending money creating something that already exists in some form, or of creating something that would encumber the town with future annual expenditures if some organization is already providing a similar service.
4. Discussed need to collect information about other sources of money, so that maybe the ARPA funding can be amplified.
 - This week, Valerie will add to the list a column to indicate which ideas have sources of funding.**
 - Before Oct 17 - Kris will reach out to ACRPC and the Planning Commission to share the ideas submitted and to see what funds they have and what projects they are looking to support.**
 - Before Oct 17 - Alison will reach out to the school district to do the same**
 - In the coming months, Jessica's students will collect information from the state (Governor/ reps), other towns (VLCT, Addison County planning commission, elected officials), and the schools (ESSR funding for covid relief) – students will present this data toward the end of the semester (late November, early December).

Want to also wants think about how to attract private investment and funding where appropriate.

5. Discussed process of evaluating ideas. Agreed that **for the next meeting**
 - all committee members are to come ready to identify the projects they think most appropriate for this ARPA funding, and why**
 - as part of this process, committee members will come prepared to indicate whether they are inclined to support one or a few larger projects or whether they'd rather see multiple smaller projects supported**

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After discussion of our preferred ideas at the Oct 17 meeting, we will discuss whether we want to create a more formal ranking of the ideas, and other next steps (do we need more information? do we want to take ideas to the community for ranking or additional input? etc.).

6. Next meeting: October 17th 7pm at Holley Hall (with remote option)