

ARPA Funding Advisory Committee

Monday, December 5, 5:30 PM

Holley Hall and Remote

Present: Kris Perlee, Alison DaBica, Mike Dash, Porter Knight, Elizabeth Blair, Helen Young (CC), Diane Cushman, Robert Rooker (PC); Valerie Capels (Town Administrator); Jessica Teets; NEAT TV

Meeting Notes

1. Approval of November 7 meeting minutes

2. Ideas moved to “tier 1” included

- Accessibility on Trails
- Farmers market
- Pedestrian path along Pine
- Land on West Pleasant for garden/other
- Bus for Recreation Dept
- Support zoning changes to increase density, increase sewer capacity, increase parking

Discussed addition of mental health/social worker for Bristol Police Dept (BPD), but resolved to stress importance of funding support for mental health needs in report to Selectboard rather than include BPD position in top tier list of ideas.

3. Review results of ranking survey

- Limitations in survey noted, including
 - Survey gave all considerations same weight. What if we value one consideration more than another?
 - Our committee had 3 considerations (serve most residents; be investment, not on-going expense; and leverage or attract \$ to Bristol). Survey listed a 4th consideration: “serve most needy residents”.
 - Some of the ideas didn’t lend themselves well to the considerations or the 1-3 ranking options that were offered, making it awkward.
- Nonetheless, 7 committee members did complete the survey. Results attached (as graphical representation of responses for each consideration of each idea, and as a numerical total for each idea).
- When ideas sorted by numeric value of survey ranking, the committee was surprised that the top 3 items did not reflect themes of Housing, Childcare and Transportation that we heard consistently throughout the data collecting process.

4. **January’s meeting will be devoted to further discussion** of the list of ideas and discussion of the way(s) we want to deliver our recommendations to the Selectboard as well as next steps to get public input.

5. Jessica presented her students’ initial research findings based on interviews with Selectboard members in Middlebury, Bristol, Weybridge, and Vergennes, and the students will offer a more complete report at the January meeting.

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- Middlebury does not plan to solicit public input but has rolled its funding into the public works budget; has spent approximately \$600,000 on wastewater projects
- Weybridge has spent some funding on Maple Broadband and would like to solicit public input.
- Vergennes has not spent funding yet and is divided about how to solicit public input

6. **Next meeting – January 2nd at 7pm**

- Further discussion of the list of ideas, complete draft list of top recommendations
- Plan community survey to rank order the top recommendations
- Jessica's class will present their findings regarding other ARPA committees

Tentative 2023 timeline:

- February: Collect survey data and finalize list of recommendations to SB; Begin strategizing about best way to present ideas that are not being put forward for ARPA funding
- March: Present to the Selectboard and more widely (transfer ideas); Advocate for funding for ideas not part of ARPA recommendations
- April: Wrap up and any final steps