

ARPA Funding Advisory Committee

Monday, January 2, 7:00 PM

Holley Hall and Remote

Present: Kris Perlee, Alison DaBica, Mike Dash, Porter Knight, Helen Young (CC), Diane Cushman, Robert Rooker (PC); Jessica Teets

Meeting Notes

1. **Approval of December 5 meeting minutes**
2. **Discussion of list**
 - Updated proposals** – Wren’s Nest updating proposal to include two units of housing for childcare workers; town has possibility to acquired donated bus shelters built by Yestermorrow so the ARPA funding would only need to cover site work like pouring concrete pads/connecting to sidewalks; grant money is available for EV charging stations are so only matching money needed from ARPA
 - Reviewed list and removed ideas** that did not fall into ARPA criteria, were too vague or too big, had already been addressed/had other funding.
 - Emphasized need for report to Selectboard to include narrative** regarding importance of all the ideas and encouraging Selectboard to continue to look for funding for the ones not covered by ARPA money. Also want to highlight for Selectboard importance of housing even though that isn’t reflected in proposed ideas, as well as mental health needs of residents.
 - Confirmed list to share with community for ranking.**
3. **Discussed process to collect public input on list via ranking survey**
 - Will promote via FPF and elementary school email from school office.
 - Agreed to add a question about harm from covid** to ranking survey
 - Agreed to create a poster for Town Meeting** so that meeting participants can put a star or dot by the idea they like best.
4. **Planning for March presentation of recommendations to Selectboard** – Recommendation list will be delivered to selectboard with a narrative report including links to the data. Draft report to be reviewed at the February meeting.
5. **ARPA research** – Jessica presented her students’ research findings based on interviews with Selectboard members in Middlebury, Bristol, Weybridge, and Vergennes, surveys with Selectboard members and residents across Addison County
 - Based on findings, the class recommended more public engagement although noted that Bristol is leading with public participation in Addison County

Next meeting – February 6th at 7pm

- Review results of community survey to rank order the top recommendations (and covid harm)
- Review draft report to Selectboard and discuss delivery of recommendations to Selectboard with report in March after Town Meeting.
- Begin strategizing about best way to present ideas that are not being put forward for ARPA funding

Tentative 2023 timeline:

- March: Present to the Selectboard and more widely (Town Meeting); Advocate for funding for ideas not part of ARPA recommendations
- April: Wrap up and any final steps