

ARPA Funding Advisory Committee

Monday, February 6, 7:00 PM

Holley Hall and Remote

Present: Betsy Blair, Diane Cushman, Alison DaBica, Mike Dash, Porter Knight, Kris Perlee, Robert Rooker, Helen Young

Valerie Capels, Ian Albinson, Jessica Teets, Shawn (NEAT TV), Ron Dendas

Meeting Notes

Call to Order: 7:16

1. Review of January 2 meeting minutes. Amended January minutes: did not publish access to ranking survey in Addison Independent because we only wanted to invite Bristol residents to participate. Minutes approved as amended.

2. Review results of community survey to rank order the top recommendations. Attached document shows results. 277 people participated. The top list shows ideas ranked by how popular each idea was. The bottom portion simply shows which items were chosen as top choices and lowest choices. The bar graph highlights ways community member reported being most impacted by COVID. Top challenges reported included adult mental health and social isolation.

Committee discussed recommendations that appear to have other sources of funding or are already moving ahead, and decided to leave them on the list so the Selectboard knows what the community's desires are, knowing that the Selectboard will work to access other sources of funds whenever possible. Report to Selectboard will encourage them to fund as many of the recommendations as they can using this list as a guide.

Committee decided to share the list exactly as ranked by the community without making any changes.

3. Discussed sharing the ranked list at Town Meeting. **Kris will draft a poster.**

4. Reviewed rough draft report to Selectboard. Reiterated need for report to stress critical needs identified throughout process (housing, childcare, transportation) as well as needs of those who may not be as engaged in public discussions (elderly, poor, mental health).

ARPA Committee is scheduled to make report at **the March 27 Selectboard meeting.**

5. Reviewed goals set at first meeting in light of progress over the course of the year. Agreed goals had been met. Decided to put into recommendation to Selectboard that they form a committee every 10+/- years to canvass community in similar way to get input about needs and perception of needs, using the community outreach efforts of this committee as a model.

6. Agreed to meet in April to talk about ways to promote ideas that are not being put forward in report to Selectboard as priorities for ARPA funding.

Adjourned 8:30

Next meetings:

March 27 – Present Report to Selectboard

April 3 – Discuss how to promote other good ideas; Wrap up committee work

TBD – be available to meet with Planning Commission to share the report directly with them