

ARPA Funding Advisory Committee

Monday, October 17, 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); Valerie Capels (Town Administrator), Ian Albinson (SB), Jessica Teets

Meeting Notes

1. Reviewed and approved the October 3 meeting notes.
2. Committee reviewed the ideas based on the ones they feel most strongly in favor of for ARPA funding and also noted any ideas that are great but think would be better implemented by the town or another source
 - a. Kris – Mason’s elevator, BFC expansion, skate park renovation + section for younger kids, bus shelters, pedestrian path (not sidewalk) on Pine, LED message board in front of firehouse, BTN expansion including parking improvements, air conditioning in Holley Hall, second road in/out of Mt Abe, repair at Memorial Park, dog park, upgrade 4th of July sound system
 - b. Mike – affordable housing, EV chargers, childcare expansion (at BES, or BFC), grant-writing position for the town, wifi/internet/cell improvements, solar panels for municipal and school buildings
 - c. Ali – bus shelters, buy land on West Pleasant for community garden, childcare expansion (BFC and Wren’s nest), improve skate park + playground expansion for younger kids, outdoor classroom at library, Rec Dept bus, BTN or other trail expansion, EV charging, air conditioning at Holley Hall, elevator at Mason’s, LED sign at firehouse, Howden Hall renovation for childcare or community centers
 - d. Diane - EV, public restrooms, Holley hall upgrade, farmers market, bike racks in Shaw’s etc, elevator at Masons, BTN or trail expansion, community need fund for low-income, Little Free Pantry, safety improvements around Prayer Rock, Turning Point’s request, South street river access, Eagle Park accessibility platform and path repairs, roof on ice rink, outdoor dining space downtown, yard waste at the transfer station and town compost, grant writing position, solar panels on town buildings, elevator at Mason’s, air conditioning at Holley Hall
 - e. Betsy – mental health (social worker with police); rescue squad needs, childcare investment with BFC, wifi/internet/cell coverage, bus shelters, cover on ice rink, public bathrooms, elevator at Masons, Holley Hall air conditioning, trail accessibility, Library outdoor classroom
 - f. Helen – affordable housing, senior housing, BFC or Wren’s nest expansion, EV charging stations; if more resources, also community garden and farmers market, skate park and playground improvements, outdoor pool, pickleball courts, bike racks, solar panels on public buildings (make whole town supported by electric), bury power lines, planting trees
 - g. Rob – support potential zoning changes to increase density, increase wastewater capacity, increase parking all to support more and more affordable housing; outdoor pool
 - h. Porter – build small starter homes to sell and then use the money for other things; provide funding so seniors can renovate and subdivide their homes to age in place

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while providing rental housing; Or (since those aren't likely): bus shelters; ebike fleet (bases at Library and Mt Abe); park n ride at Mt Abe w solar panels; electric school busses (combine ARPA \$ with that from other towns and the schools); invest in town IT (networking, intranet, communications, financial software); wifi/broadband/cell improvements; PA system for park, LED sign but maybe at Walgreens; Bristol rescue squad requests, Holley hall upgrades (A/C); accessible public bathrooms; water fountain on town green; outdoor classroom at Library; dob park; Little Free Library boxes; energy audits for town buildings; water conservation measures for residents

3. Discussed issues to consider as we narrow our search: Our process produced smaller, tangible ideas rather than sweeping solutions to the “big” problems we identified (housing, childcare, transportation) – how or should we try to reconcile this? How do we make sure the funding serves the most residents, or those in most need? How do we work with the Planning Commission to make sure affordable housing is supported? How do we find local partners to make our funding go farther? Are there certain things that we need to invest in or provide matching funds for so that bigger projects can be viable, like sewer/water infrastructure?

Next Steps:

- 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.**
- Alison will reach out to the school district to do the same**
- Ian and Valerie will note other possible funding sources including grant options and general funds already set aside by the town**
- Porter will tally everyone's suggestions to produce a consolidated list including funding possibilities from Ian and Valerie**

6. Next meeting: **November 7th 7pm at Holley Hall (with remote option) from 5:30-6:45pm**

****NOTE EARLIER TIME**