

TOWN OF WAITSFIELD, VERMONT
ARPA Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 7, 2022

Members Present: Charlie Goodman, Leo Laferriere, Mac Rood, Christine Sullivan, Brian Voigt

Staff Present: Annie Decker-Dell'Isola, Town Administrator

Others Present: Anthony Italiano (MRVTV), Alice Peal

I. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Ms. Decker-Dell'Isola. The meeting was held in person at the Waitsfield Town Offices and remotely via Zoom.

II. Regular Business.

1. Agenda additions, removals, or adjustments per 1 V.S.A. § 312 (d) (3) (A)

No modifications were made to the agenda.

2. Review and approve minutes

The minutes of August 24, 2022 were approved.

3. Review list of projects submitted through the Town website to date

Fourteen suggestions had been received; Committee members reviewed this list, evaluating whether the proposal appeared to fit into the parameters of allowed ARPA expenditures, what other funding might be available for the type of work outlined, and what the long-term impacts would be in terms of ongoing expenses and transformational effects. Some questions arose around costs and existing infrastructure and several projects had general support from committee members for further review once more specific proposals are outlined. It was decided that this follow-up will take place:

- Chris Badger (Energy Coordinator) will be consulted regarding current Town solar electricity production.
- Some transportation-related proposals may be reviewed in coordination with the Mad River Path.
- Any support for housing will require a preliminary discussion regarding eligibility of ARPA funding for specific project/programs
- Community wastewater solution proposals may also seek funding from other ARPA and non-ARPA avenues.
- Annie will compile information regarding the costs associated with increasing cybersecurity and digitizing land records.
- Christine raised the possibility of temporarily funding an increase of the vacant Treasurer position to include Grant Administrator duties and become a full-time position.

4. Discuss overall project goals and prioritization

It was agreed that childcare is a potential area for prioritization; NOW has already indicated their intent to submit a project proposal, Spring Hill and Waitsfield Child Care Center will be contacted to determine if they have any interest in participating.

Housing is another area likely to be focused on; the Housing Coalition will be asked if they have ideas regarding possible ways to make transformational use of these funds.

Other priority areas agreed upon were infrastructure, transportation, and town (government) services.

5. Review draft project intake form and discuss process

Annie provided a draft of an intake form for committee review; the group was generally in approval of the document, but with some ideas for requesting more detail regarding the description of the proposal. Members will offer suggestions for any edits to the draft, and the form will be finalized, along with an accompanying proposal evaluation rubric, at the next meeting.

Due dates will also be set for receipt of proposals; Annie will share the evaluation rubric designed by CVRPC, and she will also post a request for general ideas once more on FPF.

6. Updates on ARPA project administration

Annie indicated that she had reached out to VLCT regarding clarification of the Town's responsibilities regarding administration of approved projects, and is awaiting a response.

7. Other Business

Suggestions were offered for potential additional members. The committee can consider requesting the Selectboard amend the requirements for residency to serve on the committee if necessary. Annie will post the 2 vacancies again with another post to FPF regarding the open survey.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Chamberlin, Recording Secretar