

Craftsbury ARPA Working Group Minutes for 4/6/2022

ARPA Meeting commenced at 6:05pm

Attending: Lise Erickson, Chair; Alan Turnbull, Co-Chair; Stark Biddle, Heidi Krantz, Gina Campoli and Phil Lovely. Attending on Zoom: Michelle Warren, Louise Calderwood

1. Changes to committee announced: Vince O'Connell has resigned.
2. Open Meeting Law: Lise shared that the Craftsbury Select Board believes the working group should honor the open meeting rules. Two things we, as a group, need to do: first, group emails are to be used for information only. No substantive discussion should take place, e.g., no emailing back and forth. Second, Google.doc cannot be used for discussion.
3. Guest Annie McLean, Community Economic Recovery Specialist, NVDA present. (Contact information: (503 721-0241; amclean@nvda.net) Annie is the primary ARPA person for the NEK along with Katie Buckley, VLCT ARPA contact in that agency. Susie Houston, Michelle Warren and Lise Erickson participated in a webinar on funds. Annie stated that if a town's loss is less than \$10,000,000, they should declare the amount lost under Category 6-Lost Revenue. Annie notes that two areas the funds cannot be used for are retirement funds and contributions to debt fund/lost services. Money can be used with nonprofit organizations; can be used as a "match" with other monies including federal funds. She suggests we look at the Town Plan to see what projects could be served.

Our committee plans to invite the whole community to come to a meeting and pitch their ideas. Note that the Select Board may have or may want to set aside some amount of the funds for town projects (E.g., for matching funds, projects down the road).

Discussion followed with Stark referring to Susie Houston's charge to group to seek transformational and creative projects. Gina stated that group needs to be sure we have the institutional strength to complete such a project(s). Annie suggested a community survey and inviting folks to come to our meeting and talk and pitch ideas. Gina stated that this group needs to know how much money the Select Board plans to carve out. Lise has spoken with Susie Houston who will bring this question to the Select Board.

4. Criteria for Grants discussed. Stark stated that criteria should be designed for after proposals are submitted and that it is critical for ARPA Group to know the amount of money available. Question of what is a "town" project (i.e., generated by the Select Board) Does it get pitched like a "community" project? Is it subject to the same criteria? Louise stated that the word is "essential" when discussing a project. Alan, by way of example of an essential project, named the Energy Committee's microgrid project as meeting the criteria and being transformational.
5. Two subcommittees were proposed.
 - a. A subcommittee to revise the ARPA selection criteria. Lise, Alan and Stark will meet, revise and send out before next meeting.
 - b. A subcommittee including Heidi, Gina and Phil, to develop Project Timeline, community outreach ideas, communication strategies including types of information to include on Front Porch Forum and key tools to raise and keep public's interest. This will be sent out to group before next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm. Next meeting is April 20, 2022 at 6:00pm. Submitted by Phil Lovely

