

## Minutes of First ARPA Committee Meeting

Date: March 3, 2022

Place: Craftsbury Town Hall

Attending: Lise Erickson, Chair, Heidi Krantz, Alan Turnbull, Stark Biddle, Rudy Chase, Kevin Gregoire, Vince O'Connell, Phil Lovely

Zoom: Michelle Warren

Lise convened the meeting at 6pm. Reviewing her prepared agenda, she then offered a brief overview of the task of the committee:

- Acknowledge the limited amount of the grant: \$340,000
- Engage the community on as many levels and ways possible
- Think broadly, be transformative
- One time opportunity to effect significant change
- “Grow the community and the Grand List”

Question of what “grow the grand list” means raised.

General roundtable followed: introductions and identification of skills of the committee members provided. The diversity of the committee and its background/experience revealed rich array of way members will be able to contribute.

The ARPA committee is charged with making recommendations to the Select Board following a process of meetings as a committee, reaching out to the greater communities and interest groups to inform and elicit their suggestions on how best to use these funds. Membership in the committee will likely evolve over time. The process timeline appears to be through 2024, with an information gathering phase, proposal development and review phase, choice of project, obligation of funds and project completion during this time.

Discussion of process included clear desire to develop and employ criteria for reviewing and selecting proposal. The need for transparency and objective review was emphasized by several members. The consensus is that designing this framework needs to be high (perhaps first) priority of this group. This would also provide the community with the opportunity to respond to the criteria and even offer their own. It was noted that the Select Board should be considered as an interest group for this grant.

Lise discussed process for future meetings. She asked group members to consider a Co-Chair and hopes one will volunteer. She requested, from group members, a list of priorities for discussion (e.g., criteria for proposals). She suggested next meeting include a brainstorming session on other funding sources for matching grants. It was suggested that agenda building could be done using GoogleDocs.com prior to next meeting. Lise agreed to send out this tool a week before next meeting. Members will then enter topics for agenda.

The town website will contain a webpage for ARPA which will contain meeting minutes, current information on ARPA from Feds, Lise's excellent slides used in our discussions and other pertinent information as it appears. Michelle Warren will help with this.

Next meeting is set for Wednesday, March 16 at 6pm at the Town Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Lovely, Note Taker