

TOWN OF PEACHAM - ARPA Committee Meeting

Monday, March 21, 2022 at 8:00 p.m.

This meeting was conducted via Zoom.

Attendees: Allie Webster (Chair), Beatrice Ring, Gillian Sewake, committee members, Richard Browne, selectboard member.

Members of the Public: None

Minutes:

1. Call to order by Allison Webster at 8:03 pm
2. Additions to the agenda. None
3. Approval of minutes of March 7th. Motion made by G. Sewake, 2nd by B. Ring. Minutes were agreed to and approved.
4. Comments from the Public. None
5. Communication and Outreach Strategy
 - a. Dates for Public Events reviewed
 - i. Saturday, April 2nd – Transfer Station – 10:00a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
 - ii. Sunday April 10th – Zoom Session – 2:00 p.m.
 - iii. Sunday April 24th – Zoom Session – 2:00 p.m.
 - b. Postcard was written, formatted and sent to printer.
 - i. Standard Postage will be applied. It was approved by Dick Browne.
 - ii. 584 postcards will be mailed to residents
 - c. Transfer Station on April 2nd
 - i. B. Ring will bring pop-up tent
 - ii. B. Ring will ‘man’ the tent from 10:00a.m. – 2:00pm
 - iii. G. Sewake will be there from 1:00pm – 4:00pm
 - iv. A. Webster will be there from 12:00 – 3:00 pm
 - v. Brownies and Candy will be provided
 - vi. The Goal of this event is to:
 1. provide information. A. Webster will create a handout for the public
 2. capture comments & suggestions
 - d. Other opportunities for Outreach were suggested
 - i. Newsletters (Churches, Library, school, etc)
 - ii. Front Porch Forum – G. Sewake will write this
 - iii. Coffee House Sessions – G. Sewake will look into this
 - iv. Posters to placed around town – A. Webster will do this. Dick Browne offered support to this effort.
6. Review of Objectives of the ARPA funds
 - a. Discussion followed with alternative uses for the fund which included: investing for a future long-term strategic objective; seed money for a long-term project;
 - b. It was recommended that the two pages from the Vermont ARPA presentation had a good list which might be used to ‘trigger’ people’s thoughts. These will be made available at the Xfer Station on April 2nd.

- c. The overarching theme was that since the town will be taking the entire amount of the ARPA funding as 'lost revenue' associated with the pandemic, (per state guidance) it is less critical that the funds be specifically assigned immediately and that we think broadly about opportunities, consult Town Plan, etc.
7. Current Proposal Submission
 - a. G. Sewake reviewed the seven (7) proposals which have been submitted
 - b. Each proposal has been entered into the ARPA spreadsheet
 - c. The spreadsheet is located on the Peacham.Org/ARPA web page within the ARPA section so that people can review what has been submitted
 - d. It was agreed that a letter/email be sent to those who have provided submissions to acknowledge receipt and ensure that all necessary information is provided before the deadline of April 18, 2022.
 - e. G. Sewake added a very useful column with suggested funding alternatives for each of the submissions so the authors could think more broadly about finding funds.
8. Next Meeting will be held April 5th via Zoom at 8:00 p.m. Topics will include:
 - a. Determine the format for the two input sessions
 - b. Define primary themes or goals to be applied when the committee evaluates each proposal. This will act as a guide for individuals when submitting a proposal. (Ex: should the committee set aside X funds for future (unknown) projects; does percentage of the populace affected by a proposal have relevance; etc)
 - c. Review of proposals currently submitted
9. ARPA Meeting was adjourned
 - a. G. Sewake motioned to adjourn, Seconded by B. Ring. All in Favor.
 - b. Adjourned at 8:59pm

Respectfully Submitted:

Beatrice Ring