

Peacham ARPA Committee Meeting
Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 8:00pm

In attendance:

ARPA Committee: Gillian Sewake, Allie Webster, Beatrice Ring

Selectboard: Richard Brown

Member of the Public: Mary Daly

Minutes:

1. Call to order: Meeting called to order at 8:03pm
2. Additions to the agenda: Addition of agenda item - Discussion of process for proposals under \$500
3. Approval of previous meeting minutes: Beatrice moved, Gillian seconds. Unanimously approved.
4. Public comment period: No comments. Discussion of ARPA definition and process.
5. Review Outreach & Communications Strategy (i.e. takeaways 4/2 @Transfer Station)
 - Gillian provided an overview of the written recommendations submitted during the transfer station outreach session, all added to the spreadsheet.
 - General consensus is that the session was very worthwhile, and possible additional sessions may be considered.
 - Additional outreach planned upcoming input sessions: Facebook posts, ask Rebecca to post on Front Porch Forum, town e-newsletter post, and physical flyers are posted around town and in school folders on Friday.
6. Determine the format for the two April input sessions
 - Discussion of Gillian's proposed outline.
 - Additions:
 - In the public input session, add time for input on the selection criteria
 - Provide opportunity for folks who plan to submit proposals to speak, briefly
 - Allie will ask those who have submitted proposals to send one sentence descriptions for the committee to read during the meeting
 - Gillian will begin to draft a powerpoint presentation based on the outline, with section assignments for committee members
 - Discussion of accessibility:
 - For the upcoming input session on Sunday, we will proceed with Zoom, directing people to the website for full information.
 - For the final input session, Gillian will preliminarily reach out to the library to see if a hybrid option might be available for folks without reliable internet access.

7. Define evaluation criteria for ARPA proposals

- Review and discussion of Beatrice's proposal. Beatrice will take the discussion points and email those final suggestions to the committee for final review.
- Question to clarify why the timeline was set to decide the use of funds now.
 - Richard clarified that the timeline was due to a desire to spend the money before possible political changes in Washington could affect the availability with funds, and because the funds had to be spent by a determined date. The other reason was to move the project forward, with a definitive deadline for accomplishing results.
 - Discussion of the timeline for spending the funds - Even with the town claiming all funds as lost revenue, the decision on how to spend them is due by the end of 2024, with all funds required to be spent by the end of 2026.

8. Review ARPA correspondence and submitted proposals to date

- The spreadsheet is up to date.
- Beatrice will be in attendance at tomorrow's selectboard meeting to listen in on the broadband proposal.

9. Added agenda item: discussion of items under \$500: Decision is to wait to see what comes in, and make a decision based on what proposals we see.

9. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:31pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Gillian Sewake, ARPA Committee Member