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By Darlene Brady at 10:23 am, Jun 06, 2022

TOWN OF KENT

ARPA Needs Assessment Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 23, 2022 @ 4:30 pm

Members in attendance:

Connie Manes
Joe Agli
Patricia Oris
Glenn Sanchez
Ruth Epstein
Barbara Herbst
Craig Bibb

Guests and members of the public in attendance:
none

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1. The meeting was called to order at 4:34 pm
 2. The agenda for the meeting was approved on a motion made by Craig Bibb and seconded by Ruth Epstein.
 3. The minutes from the March 9th meeting were approved on a motion made by Joe Agli and seconded by Craig Bibb
 4. The minutes from the March 15th meeting were approved on a motion made by Glenn Sanchez and seconded by Barbara Herbst
 5. Connie Manes gave committee members an oral report on the focus group she moderated with residents and parents. Only 2 people participated, but Connie reports that the heartbreak of isolation during COVID came through loud and clear in her discussions.
 6. Melissa Cherniske took notes during the above-mentioned focus group, and they are included in the committee's working google folder
 7. Patricia Oris reported on her 1-on-1 interview with Lorraine Astudillo, owner of Lore's Nail Salon. The salon was forced to close for 3 months and then open only partially for several months thereafter. Because Lorraine had only purchased the salon 3 months before the pandemic hit, she did not qualify for any other federal or state aid. She experienced a significant loss of revenue due to COVID, and to pay rent, etc., she was forced to use all her personal savings.
 8. The committee decided to make recommendations for ARPA fund disbursement in categories to the Kent BoS and BoF, and produce applications for specific requests within each category that can then be reviewed (approved or rejected) by Barbara Herbst for expediency.
 9. Joe Agli supplied sample applications from several towns. Craig Bibb thought that Litchfield's application was the best. Connie Manes expressed the view that their application was a bit onerous and that she would like to see a simpler application be developed for Kent applicants.

10. General discussion ensued about the categories we would create for ARPA fund recommendations and how much we should recommend for each category. No agreement was reached on specific disbursement amounts, but we did agree on 6 categories: Small Businesses, Non-Profits, Individuals, Municipal projects, Infrastructure Investments, and the KVFD.
11. The meeting was adjourned at 5:52 pm

These are draft minutes. Corrections may be made by the Committee at a subsequent meeting. Please refer to subsequent meeting minutes for possible corrections and approval of these minutes.

ARPA Assessment Committee charge: *to conduct a needs assessment to make recommendations to the BoS on potential uses for the ARPA funds.*

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