



RECEIVED

By Darlene Brady at 10:26 am, Jun 06, 2022

TOWN OF KENT

ARPA Needs Assessment Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 27, 2022 @ 4:30 pm

Members in attendance:

Connie Manes

Joe Agli

Patricia Oris

Glenn Sanchez

Barbara Herbst

Ruth Epstein

Craig Bibb

No members of the public were in attendance

-
1. The meeting was called to order at 4:36 pm
 2. The agenda for the meeting was approved on a motion made by Connie Manes and seconded by Glenn Sanchez.
 3. The minutes from the April 20 meeting were approved on a motion made by Craig Bibb and seconded by Glenn Sanchez. A note is added to these minutes to report that the April 20 meeting was adjourned at 5:47pm
 4. Connie Manes submitted her report on the 1-on-1 interview she did with Wanessa Anderson, owner of W Rhythm Fitness and Wellness Studio.
 5. Barbara Herbst reported that she posted the results of our ARPA Needs Assessment Survey on the Kent town website, on the ARPA page, and on Facebook.
 6. Craig Bibb made a motion to re-open discussion about the category disbursement amounts the committee voted on during the April 20 meeting. Joe Agli seconded the motion. Both Craig Bibb and Joe Agli expressed the view that the amount recommended for ARPA aid to individuals was too high. After robust discussion, a vote was called and the motion failed (5/2).
 7. As a result of the failed motion, Craig Bibb resigned from the ARPA Needs Assessment Committee
 8. Joe Agli explained to the group why he recommended some ARPA funds be used to assist Park&Rec with upgrades to Emery pool, the addition of a DPW breakroom, and for sewer plant upgrades.
 9. Barbara Herbst reported that Park&Rec currently has \$200K in the budget; \$160K of it has been in their budget since 2016 waiting to be used. She also reported that the KVFD currently has \$1 million in the bank.

10. On a motion made by Connie Manes and seconded by Barbara Herbst, the ARPA Needs Assessment Committee unanimously voted to recommend funding of the following Municipal Projects:
 - \$10K for the purchase of Chrome Books for the land use office (P&Z)
 - \$24K for the purchase of hybrid meeting equipment for town hall
 - \$40K for upgrades to the senior center and for 2 years' worth of high-quality programming for seniors
 - \$80K toward a new break room for the DPW
 - \$25K to fund the Board of Education's after school and summer enrichment program
 - TOTAL \$179K
11. With regard to the KVFD, Barbara Herbst said she is in favor of funding their fitness room request. Joe Agli stated that he was in favor of funding the purchase of new equipment and a vehicle.
12. After discussion about KVFD's needs, Barbara Herbst made a motion (seconded by Connie Manes) to recommend ARPA fund the following:
 - \$3600 for a stair chair
 - \$30K for a fitness room
 - \$40K for 2-way communication system
13. The motion described above passed but Joe Agli abstained because he believes an email should be sent to KVFD asking them to prioritize their ARPA fund requests before making specific recommendations.
14. Connie Manes suggested that any funds left unused in the first 3 categories (aid to individuals, aid to businesses, and aid to non-profits) could rollover to KVFD.
15. The committee then discussed various infrastructure needs in Kent. Based on discussion, Glenn Sanchez made a motion (seconded by Barbara Herbst) to recommend ARPA funds be disbursed as follows:
 - \$40K for upgrades to Kent Common Park to include the fixing of drainage problems, and the installation of outdoor exercise stations for use by everyone in the community
 - \$110K for all necessary upgrades to our sewer plant
16. The motion described above carried unanimously.
17. The next meeting of the ARPA Needs Assessment Committee will be held on Wednesday, May 4th at 4:30. During that meeting, the committee will finalize the first 3 category recommendations and plan our presentation to the Board of Selectmen.
18. The meeting was adjourned at 5:58pm

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.*

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer
41 Kent Green Boulevard, P.O. Box 678, Kent, CT 06757-0678
Phone: (860) 927-4627 ☐ **Fax: (860) 927-**www.townofkentct.org