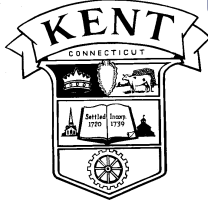


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By Darlene Brady at 10:14 am, Jul 07, 2022



TOWN OF KENT

ARPA Needs Assessment Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday July 6, 2022 @ 4:30pm

Members in attendance:

Joe Agli
Ruth Epstein
Barbara Herbst
Connie Manes

Guests and members of the public in attendance:

Donna Hayes

-
1. Call to order – A quorum being present, Committee Chair Connie Manes called the meeting to order at 4:35pm.
 2. Amend/Accept Agenda – Upon a motion by Barbara Herbst seconded by Joe Agli, the committee unanimously voted to accept the agenda.
 3. Approve Minutes of June 1, 2022 Regular Meeting – Item tabled as Minutes of June 1, 2022 have not yet been circulated.
 4. Public Comment – Donna Hayes spoke about her concerns regarding the Committee's recommended allocation of \$10,000 for the purchase of Chrome books for the Land Use office and commissioners – a portion of the \$180,000 ratified by the Board of Selectmen for Municipal Projects. During the Board of Selectmen's meeting of June 22, 2022 comments were made that the Chrome books would have costs additional to the \$10,000 but Donna is not aware of what these additional costs might be. The Committee members agreed that they had no information about any costs additional to the amount recommended to be allocated.
 5. Board of Selectmen meetings June 22 and July 7, 2022 – debrief and remaining items for discussion. Barbara rewatched the June 22 meeting recording and transcribed the motions, voted and passed, as follows:

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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Motion to accept the ARPA Needs Assessment Committee's Assessment and Recommendations Report, ratify the six categories' pool amounts, and to begin the application process for aid to individuals and families, local businesses, and non-profits. To disperse funds to the Kent Volunteer Fire Department and the Board of Education after-school and summer education enrichment program. To appoint the Town of Kent Treasurer the administrator of the programs.

On the Friday following the meeting Barbara and Jean Speck met in order to be ready to open applications for the first three categories on July 1st, creating a press release, flyers, posting on the Town website, Facebook post (to be repeated each week). Barbara is keeping a list of where flyers are placed or posted. She has received 3 applications to date, 2 from individuals and one from a nonprofit.

Connie Manes informed the committee that the Board of Selectmen's meeting scheduled for July 7th had been cancelled, and would likely be rescheduled for next Wednesday. The Committee discussed its concerns about the Board of Selectmen's reluctance to decide on its recommendations for allocations within the Municipal Projects and Infrastructure categories. The Committee stands by its recommendations made following thorough research, review and discussion, and will advocate that its report be adopted in full, and that any funds left over can be allocated for other use.

6. Next steps - Connie will send an email to the Board of Selectmen informing them that the committee's regular meeting time on Wednesday would be a good time for the rescheduled meeting, and requesting that the ARPA Report be placed near the beginning of the agenda. She will advise the Committee when the Selectmen's meeting is rescheduled.
7. Adjourn – There being no further business before the Committee, and upon the motion of Ruth Epstein seconded by Barbara Herbst, the meeting adjourned at 5:28pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Connie Manes, Chair

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