

Community Planning Committee Meeting
10/20/2021 7:00 PM
Via Zoom

Minutes

Attending: John Scheflen, Pam Politis, Ron Meick, Jennifer Borders; Mark Wood

1. Minutes from September --accepted as written.
2. ARPA Covid relief fund
A process for deciding how to spend the funding was approved by the Town Assembly at the September Town Meeting. The process and timeline approved are as follows:
 - I. A brief presentation of eligible spending categories will be presented to the September Town Assembly. The Town Assembly will be asked to comment on this process and timeline.
 - II. Proposals will be solicited from each Town Committee via email or phone.
 - III. An article in the November *Page* will ask residents to submit ideas to the Planning Committee and notify them of a public meeting on Wednesday, November 17, at 7:00PM to discuss all ideas. A second public meeting will be held on January 19, 2022, at 7:00PM.
 - IV. A list of eligible projects with ballpark cost estimates will be presented to the January Town Assembly for a vote to narrow the list.
 - V. A final approval vote will be held at the March 2022 Town Meeting; if needed, a referendum will be held.
 - VI. Funding can start to be spent after during the FY2023 budget year starting in March 2022.

Guidance will be needed to make sure the Town is complying with appropriate spending categories. The law office of Barnes & Thornburg has been engaged by the State Treasurer's office for DE municipalities to assure compliance with ARPA eligibility rules and reporting requirements. The Village of Arden is contributing a percentage of its funds for this legal help.

3. Governance Task Force formation
The motion proposed by CPC was passed by the Town Assembly at the September Meeting with some modifications to the "Purpose" section (see strike-throughs):

Purpose

1. The Arden Charter and Town Committee structure have remained largely unchanged since their creation during the 1960's and 1970's. Since then, new ordinances and policies have continued to be added, edited and re-interpreted. ~~There has not been a comprehensive review of how those new~~

~~documents fit into the existing governing documents and inconsistencies have arisen.~~ These Inconsistencies can create non-compliance with governing documents, confusion, piece-meal corrections and “work-arounds” to assure compliance.

2. In addition, today we live in an environment much different than just ten years ago. ~~Arden is confronted like every other local government with the effects of climate change, global pandemic, social and political polarization, the need for social justice for all, and the need for public trust in our government as well as democracy itself.~~ Given these challenges, it is time to evaluate our governing process and assure that we are living up to the community goals that we have set for ourselves as well as to evaluate our governing process against others throughout the state.

The next step is to form the 5-member task force. Ray Siegfried has been suggested for chair and several others are being considered. Town Chair Jeffrey Politis will be seeking and interviewing candidates to be proposed to the Advisory Committee at their January meeting and then voted on at the January Town Meeting. He would like this Committee to review the candidates prior to Advisory.

4. Ordinance 15

Letters will be sent to leaseholders in January to notify them of the need to register any vacant properties. The need for revisions to some of the wording for Ordinance 15 remains and issue.

5. New Business

Discussion of Committee member projects/assignments:

- a) Governance Task Force - John
- b) Economic Diversity Panel organizing for Jan or later-- postponing
- c) Work with Toby & Dave on creating a Community Garden web page - Pam, Mark
- d) Work with Ben Gruswitz on 3-Ardens Group for Mobility & Safety - ?
- e) ARPA -Jen + ?
- f) Ordinance 15 revising - Jen, John

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 17, 2021, 7 PM, at BWVC. This meeting will be a public forum on how to spend Ardens' ARPA funds.