

Community Planning ARPA Proposal Process

January 6, 2022 Public Meeting via zoom

Attendance: Jen Borders, Alison Wakelin, Larry Walker, Carol Larson, Harold Kalmus, John Schefflen, Vicki Scott, Bev Clendening, Skip Bailey, Ellie Hansen, Bob Erenburg, Jeffrey Politis, Steve Benigni, Simon Hamermesh, Betty O'Regan, Denis O'Regan, Ron Meick, Barbara Macklem, Pam Politis, Deborah Ricard, Grace Ressler, Harry Themal

Jen Borders opened the meeting with a general review of the submission process, eligibility criteria, and ARPA reference materials available. She shared the Arden.gov website with related forms and materials and asked for those that have sent emails regarding proposals to fill out the online form and submit so the proposals are submitted in a consistent format. Submissions will go through an initial review for eligibility, including by the law firm hired by the State to help advise on ARPA submissions. Proposals that are deemed appropriate from the review process will be presented to the Town Assembly in the January meeting.

Skip Bailey asked if a proposal has been submitted regarding sewer line repair/renovation for BWVC. Betty & Denis indicated that BWVC committee intends to submit a proposal, recognizing that the basketball courts and Buzz flooring may be impacted by the sewer evaluation/project.

Carol Larsen suggested that her storm water management proposal could be complementary to the BWVC sewer project and she will reach out to find opportunities to collaborate on the sewer project

Simon Hamermesh asked questions about the process and voting at January and March meetings –do we need to or intend to vote on spending the full amount this year, or wait another year to allocate some funds.

Jennifer clarified that very preliminary proposals will be presented to town meeting in January to allow for input from the town and perhaps a prioritization poll and/or rank choice vote to get feedback on which projects are likely to be supported by Town Assembly.

Larry Walker commented on his hope that projects selected will support the unique aspects of Arden (Greens, Woods, Pool, Community events and infrastructure). Jen suggested that construction of outdoor spaces could be appropriate for an ARPA project.

Jeffrey spoke about a proposal to have broadband brought into Arden and delivered as a common utility to all households. The project is intended to deliver high speed internet to all households and all public spaces. The service would be delivered as a Municipal Wifi.

Jeffrey and Allison are discussing a joint proposal in which educational support is offered to children in the Villages (tutoring program or other educational support). A submission addressing revenue loss is also under consideration by the Village of Arden.

Larry Walker mentioned his proposal for playground projects, including two separate new equipment projects (one for \$10K and another \$35K).

Deborah Ricard asked whether Villages can collaborate on projects, and Alison indicated that she had verified that they can. Alison mentioned her interest in projects related to rain gardens on the Petit

Green, tutoring, and mental health support programs. Jen encouraged her to write up her ideas and submit proposals.