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By Linda Amerighi at 9:28 am, Mar 07, 2022

Sharon ARPA Advisory Committee
March 02, 2022 Meeting Minutes
Draft until approved at the next regular meeting

The Sharon ARPA Advisory Committee held a regular meeting at 6:30pm on March 02, 2022. The meeting was held in hybrid mode, in person at Town Hall and online via Zoom.

Committee Attendees:

In person

Jill Drew

Tom Bartram

Barbara Prindle

Carol Flaton

Tom Casey

Public Attendees:

In person

Jean Bustillo, Silver Lake Shores Assn

On Zoom

Gretchen Hachmeister

Doug Cahill

Donna DiMartino

Meghan Flanagan

On Zoom

Penny Hartz, Silver Lake Shores Assn

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:33pm.
2. The proposed meeting agenda was approved without amendment. (Barbara/Donna)
3. Minutes of the Feb 14, 2022 meeting were revised to show the "Feb 2nd" minutes were approved and were adopted as amended (Barbara/Tom Casey). It was noted that the Evaluation Process Form had been forwarded to the Board of Selectmen with no response.
4. Public Comment: Additional public comment to be added when items were discussed.
5. Jill had supplied a list of funding ideas that had been submitted by the public under comments. The ideas were color coded to show the level of support after the Committee's review at the last meeting. The Committee went through the list and suggested what Town Board or Commission we thought should review and possibly sponsor it via an application. We will forward this to the Board of Selectmen along with the standard applications.
5. Review ARPA grant applications
 - a. Sharon Daycare Center – \$10,000 to \$20,000

**** from the Feb 14th minutes ****

The requested funds will be used to expand and renovate its space to accommodate 18 more students and to add air purifiers for classrooms. The Sharon Board of Education is considering the Daycare Center's application to expand. If that application is denied, the funds would be applied toward renovating a new space for the Daycare Center. Currently there are more than

20 families on the waiting list, which is significantly longer, especially for the preschool program, than before the pandemic.

It was also noted that multiple closures had affected the Center's income. After discussion, it was moved that we recommend a \$10,000.00 amount for now and advise the Center to apply in the Second Round once renovation plans are finalized. (Barbara/Donna)

b. Housatonic Youth Services Bureau - this application requested \$60,000.00 from each Region 1 town to fund a Prevention Facilitator for a 5-year period. Their referrals had tripled during the pandemic and there was a downturn in fundraising. After considerable discussion, it was moved to recommend a \$25,000.00 amount along with a hope that all the other Towns would contribute as well. (Doug/ Gretchen)

c. Rodriguez Brothers LLC – the request was for \$200,000 but an email sent to Jill had revised the figure down to \$20,000.00. It seems that the cash assistance to households may be the only qualifying part of the application. The amount requested for personal loss should be “reasonably proportional to” the negative economic impact of Covid. As guidance for how to determine that amount, the U.S. Treasury rules point to the amount of Economic Impact Payments approved by Congress. The Committee thought a new application should be filed with the Town Social Service office. We were not sure the other losses were in line with the assistance to small business guidelines. This would require a separate application that fine tunes the business losses. It was moved to send the original \$200K application and revised requests, with recommendation for re-application, to the Board of Selectman (Donna/Doug) – 8 Yes 1 Abstain

d. Revised Application from Silver Lake Shores Association – \$50,000 request. The Association had submitted additional data since submission. After Committee review, we felt it fit Treasury guidelines under infrastructure, negative impact to non-profits, and negative impact to disproportionately affected populations based on a \$70K median income for members, as reported in a survey conducted by the Association. Priority projects were noted as drainage and dry fire hydrant repair. It was moved that the \$50K request amount be recommended to BOS (Donna/Barbara).

e. Northwest CT Transit District - the request was for \$10K per town to support operations after an 80% drop in ridership during the pandemic. It was noted that Sharon residents did not use this service very much and we have not had representation on the organization's Board for quite a while. It was moved we fund at \$5K with possible additional in Round 2. (Donna/Barbara)

f. Housatonic Valley Association- the request was for \$3,034.00 from each of the towns bordering the River. \$1,500.00 would be used to fund REO Ambassadors with the remainder to fund DEEP Enforcement Officers' overtime for patrolling the River areas. After discussion, it was moved to increase the amount to \$5K and recommend to the BOS and encourage the rest of the towns to support as well (Tom C/ Donna)

The next meeting will be held March 21st, 2022 in person & via Zoom at 4:30pm

9. Unanimous approval of a motion to adjourn and the meeting concluded at 8:25pm.

Respectively submitted,

Thomas Bartram

Secretary Pro-Tem