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By Linda Amerighi at 9:55 am, Nov 28, 2022

MINUTES

SHARON ARPA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2022 at 4:30 pm

Hybrid meeting: In person at Town Hall and on Zoom

Attending:

(In person)

Tom Bartram

Jill Drew

Pamela Peeters (applicant)

(On Zoom)

Donna DiMartino

Tom Casey

Doug Cahill

Gretchen Hachmeister

I. Meeting called to order at 4:30 pm

- a. The agenda was approved as circulated.
- b. The minutes of Oct. 17 meeting were approved.

II. Public Comment

- a. No members of the public were in attendance except the applicant.

III. New Applications

- a. Pamela Peeters, dba Institute for a Sustainable Planet - \$14,500 for 31-day program of workshops and Zoom calls to address mental hardship caused by Covid.

(See meeting recording here, TC 1:15 – 22:30) Pamela would like to offer a personal-growth workshop project she has designed, called “Elements,” to up to 40 Sharon residents seeking to restore an uplifting vision of their futures after Covid. She described it as an organic healing program that integrates several forms of therapy. She would meet once privately with each participant to understand their particular needs before beginning once-a-week group meetings, which she envisions doing in a hybrid format (both in-person and on Zoom) at Town Hall. Each participant will get a deck of visioning cards (an image on one side and three questions on the back that the participant can use to reflect on individually), a daily video explaining the themes of each card, an online workbook, and opportunities to speak individually with Pamela throughout the process. She would host a graduation at the end of the workshop in which she hopes each participant would invite 10 others to attend. More details of the project are [here in a four-page proposal](#), along with her ARPA application here on the shared Google Drive.

She answered questions from the Task Force:

- How would you choose the 40 if you get, say, 60 applicants? She said it would be based on who has the most urgent need and who she believes understands that they have to do the inner work.

- Would all the participants be from Sharon? Yes.

- It would be contingent on those 40 people to go out and bring in new people? Yes, a total of 440 people at graduation. If it's a success, should could a part two. Perhaps at Sharon Center School, for kids.

- How did she pick 40 participants and what if she can't get 40 participants? She is willing to scale back the size and budget for project to fit the number of participants. 40 seemed like a good size for a workshop so some people can stay quiet and listen to others.
- Are you a therapist? No, I'm an eco-consultant with two masters degrees and can run workshops.
- Are you licensed to provide therapy? No.
- Is your company a non-profit? No.
- To be clear, you're not applying for ARPA funds because your company suffered because of Covid; rather, you are applying to supply a behavioral health offering? Yes.
- Have you approached any of the local non-profits to offer your program through them? The Town of Sharon has awarded ARPA dollars to the Housatonic Youth Services Bureau, the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, Greenwoods Counseling and Referrals and the Equus Group to provide mental health services for residents. No, she has not approached any of them. She thought the Sharon Community Foundation might be a place she could approach. She had a meeting with Ella Clark who she said thought it was a good idea.
- Do you consider yourself more of a life coach? Not a therapist? Yes
- Could you read some of the questions on the back of a card? She read the card "Shine."
- How did you come up with \$14,500? She went over the components of the budget, as presented on her proposal. This could be adjusted if she didn't get 40 participants
- Have you done this program elsewhere? Yes, at the Hippocrates Wellness Institute in Palm Beach, a meditation program. She has private clients in Belgium. Her cards are sold in Canada and also locally.

IV. Review Board of Selectmen Actions: Jill noted the following actions:

- a. American Legion request denied second request for \$8,000 for A/C.
- b. Tabled the two Comcast-related proposals (\$25,000 for contract performance manager and about \$240,000 to offset the cost of the buildout)

V. Administration

- a. Jill has received about half of the grantee spending reports. Jill plans to provide a public report by mid-December and hopes to file with the Treasury early, by the end of the calendar year.

VI. No other new business

VII. Adjourn at 4:56 PM

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, Dec. 7 at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Drew