



TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK

Office of the Board of Selectmen

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AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES HYBRID MEETING

Tuesday, May 10, 2022

5:00 p.m.

Old Saybrook Town Hall – First-floor Conference Room

To access a recording of this meeting: <https://youtu.be/dxjj5TP6g8>

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m. by the chair, Mr. Carlson.

Members Present: Bruce Carlson (Chair), Susan Esty (Vice-chair), Maureen Zavatone (Secretary), Kristen Roberts, Judy Sullivan, Kacie Hand, Elizabeth McEvily and Brad Thorpe.

Others Present: Carl Fortuna, Matthew Pugliese, Jennifer Donahue, Dennis Tulimieri and Louise Lisboa.

II. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the April 26 meeting were reviewed. A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Thorpe and seconded by Ms. Esty to accept the minutes as submitted; the motion passed unanimously.

IV. GUEST PRESENTATIONS

Louise Lisboa, VP of Impact, Operations & Child Care for the Women's Business Development Council (WBDC), was the guest presenter focusing on child care issues in the Old Saybrook area. She noted that the WBDC has been around for 25 years, has 3 offices and has assisted 18,000 clients. The organization works to help small businesses, mainly run by women, to start and grow. They work under a four pillars of service model: education (training, mentoring, etc.), grants and technical assistance, relationship cultivation, advocacy. They have worked with 26 businesses in Old Saybrook, a high percentage of which are minority owned.

Related to child care, the WBDC works in partnership with the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood. She reported that Old Saybrook has seven licensed providers with 356 child care slots. It is estimated that there are 275 children under age five in the town.

Two of the providers are school based, one is a chain, one is a nonprofit, two are private and one is home based. One new program has been added since the pandemic began and there are also 100 additional slots than there were pre-pandemic.

Discussion followed including noting that even though there may be open slots available in the community they are not always in the age groups that need the care. In addition, more care is needed for non-traditional hours (i.e. before and after care). Ms. Lisboa pointed out that relevant factors related to the child care offered in the area could include: 1) whether key employers that have workers who need child care are willing to support it, 2) whether there is affordable real estate available for home-based facilities, 3) whether there are available qualified child care workers. The idea of slots for local needs as well as to meet the needs of those who work in town but don't live here was discussed as well as Care for Kids subsidies – lack of affordable child care is the top reason women are leaving the workforce. Mr. Carlson noted that Ms. Lisboa's slides would be distributed to the committee.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Two new requests for funding were reviewed. This spurred discussion on how to begin giving awards or evaluating who to give awards to. The two requests both deal with loss of revenue due to the pandemic. Mr. Fortuna noted that he would like all requests like this to show net loss. Ms. Esty asked if requests of those who have been harmed should be considered first before moving on to other projects. Committee members discussed the importance of having an application so that each applicant is being judged on the same criteria. Mr. Carlson and Ms. Donahue will work on a draft application for the next meeting.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Committee members questioned when to start working on non-agency requests and how to determine the amount of money that those initiatives would need. Should things be done on a project basis or should the money be divided up proportionately into each of the four identified pillar areas and then have projects funded under each of those umbrellas? A list of easier things to move forward on will be prepared for the next meeting versus things that may need more information and time before a decision can be made.

VII. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE

There were no additional comments from committee members.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Thorpe made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 6:21 p.m. Ms. Esty seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The next meeting of the committee will be held on Tuesday, May 24, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. in the Town Hall first-floor conference room.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Donahue