



TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK

Office of the Board of Selectmen

302 Main Street • Old Saybrook, Connecticut 06475

Telephone (860) 395-3123 • FAX (860) 395-3125

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

Tuesday, May 24, 2022

5:00 p.m.

Old Saybrook Town Hall – First-floor Conference Room

To access a recording of this meeting: <https://youtu.be/HX3u5vNBw5o>

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by the chair, Mr. Carlson.

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

Members Absent: Judy Sullivan

Others Present: Carl Fortuna, Scott Giegerich, Matthew Pugliese, Ray Allen, Jennifer Donahue, Elizabeth Steffen and Claudia Way.

II. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Ms. Steffen made a presentation in support of the proposed pavilion at the senior housing complex on Sheffield Street. She noted that there are a minority of members of the senior housing complex who are not in favor of the project. She detailed those residents' complaints but reported that of the 72 residents at the facility only five or six have complained; most residents are excited about the opportunity this space will offer. She also noted that the facility's board of directors is 100% in support of the project and that HUD, who helped finance the construction of the housing complex, is also in support of the project.

Ms. Way made a presentation against the proposed pavilion at the senior center reporting that she feels that information on the project has not been forthcoming and no poll has been taken of the residents. She also noted that she does not understand where it could be positioned in light of the septic fields, it will detract from the privacy of those with units near it and she does not feel the residents will clean up after themselves and it will attract vermin.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the May 10, 2022 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

Mr. Fortuna presented four potential projects for consideration two of which he characterized as needs and two of which he described as wants. The two needs include: 1) Ingham Hill Road bridge over Fishing Brook – this has been identified by the state as needing to be replaced; the town has applied for a grant which could pay for half of the potential \$1.4 million cost; 2) Chalkers Mill Pond Dam – a long-term issue, this project is estimated to cost between \$250,000-300,000 with no other funding opportunities available. The two wants include: 1) improve the safety of Main Street for pedestrians at crosswalks by raising and bumping out sidewalks at the crosswalks for better pedestrian visibility and traffic calming - \$150,000 for each area addressed; 2) repave the diagonal parking areas that haven't yet been done on Main Street.

Discussion followed and Mr. Fortuna was asked to rank the projects. Mr. Fortuna noted that \$500,000 would preserve money in the capital non-recurring fund and that he would like to see the Main Street bump outs done in FY2023 and the other projects could be done in the order that the proper permits could be obtained for the work.

Mr. Allen presented ten suggested improvements to Park & Rec facilities all that would also address tourism. He presented them in order of his priorities and explained a bit about each one with a total cost of \$471,000:

- Provide wi-fi in five public spaces - \$40,000
- Upgrade technology at the Vicky Duffy Pavilion - \$10,000
- Provide solar-powered cell phone chargers in five parks - \$10,466
- Install a sidewalk to connect to the tennis courts at Trask Park; this would also make the bathroom handicap accessible - \$5,000
- Resurface the splash pad at Trask Park - \$54,080
- Install three pickleball courts at Trask Park as the current courts on Main Street are very popular and he receives many requests for more - \$165,000
- Upgrade the Harvey's Beach bathhouse - \$12,800
- Upgrade the Town Beach bathrooms - \$7,900
- Pave the Harvey's Beach parking lot - \$152,000
- Upgrade the fencing around the mini golf course - \$8,900

V. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Carlson noted that there were a number of examples of applications in the meeting packet. He and Ms. Donahue will work to put together a draft application to circulate before the next meeting with the goal of getting input before that meeting so that changes can be made and a final version can be approved on June 14.

Ms. Esty pointed out that she feels the committee still needs to make some decisions about helping those who have been harmed by Covid before approving new projects.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

VII. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE

There were no additional comments from committee members.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Thorpe made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 6:17 p.m. Ms. Esty seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The next meeting of the committee will be held on Tuesday, June 14, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. in the Town Hall first-floor conference room.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Donahue