



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, June 28, 2022

5:00 p.m.

Old Saybrook Town Hall – First-floor Conference Room

To access a recording of this meeting: <https://youtu.be/BYT2RX8Ogrw>

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. by the vice-chair, Ms. Esty.

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

Members Absent: Bruce Carlson (Chair).

Others Present: Carl Fortuna, Scott Giegerich, Matthew Pugliese, Jennifer Donahue, Elizabeth Steffen, Claudia Way, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Calci, Guy French and Janis Esty.

II. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Ms. Way commented on the proposed sidewalk and pavilion that has been requested at the senior housing facility noting that she feels that it is an intrusive project that could only be used five months out of the year. She also noted that The Estuary has a beautiful outdoor gazebo and view and that the \$80,000 for the pavilion could be better used in another way.

Ms. J. Esty commented briefly on the ARPA application submitted on behalf of the Lions Club apologizing because she had some technical difficulties while completing it.

Mr. Calci, past commander of the American Legion Post 13, presented on behalf of the American Legion regarding their hope to receive some ARPA funding to offset fundraising losses they had during the pandemic which have set them back financially and made them unable to make improvements that are necessary to their continued fundraising success in the future. He mentioned in particular that many of their events involve cooking and that their stove is now in need of replacement. He also detailed many of the important community activities that the post supports and the types of fundraisers that they hold.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the June 14, 2022 meeting were reviewed. A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Thorpe and seconded by Ms. Sullivan to accept the minutes as submitted; the motion passed unanimously.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Hand made a **MOTION** to approve the application as submitted. Mr. Thorpe seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Discussion about the approval criteria for applications focused on whether this was needed, whether certain questions were too subjective, while on the other hand noting that priorities could be useful so that all committee members were evaluating applications under the same assumptions. There was also extensive discussion about allowing reimbursements of net losses versus gross losses. It was suggested that the information be reframed as guidelines. No consensus could be reached on the guidelines and Ms. Esty asked members to consider them again over the next two weeks in preparation for a renewed discussion at the next meeting.

A letter received from the Economic Development Commission regarding potential projects it would like to see funded was reviewed. No monetary numbers were attached to the proposal. The small business loan program and its feasibility with help from the MCRC was discussed. It was suggested that perhaps MCRC could explain how the oversight would work in that scenario. The footbridge to the industrial park is a complicated process because of the collaboration with Amtrak. Perhaps a refresh of the marketing plan originally prepared by Ms. Beckman could also be presented. Ms. Hand explained the EDC's thinking on some of these projects.

V. NEW BUSINESS

The committee received four applications in its early application process for time-sensitive requests: 1) Lions Club revenue reimbursement; 2) Estuary request for contribution for increased hours for social worker; 3) Social Services, senior housing pavilion; 4) Social Services, funding to respond to the negative impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on disproportionately affected households in the community. Ms. Esty turned the chair role over to Ms. Zavatone since she needed to recuse herself from any discussion related to the Lions Club request.

Committee members discussed their readiness to make approvals when there could potentially be many more applications coming after the official release. They also discussed how smaller, less-complicated matters, especially time-sensitive ones might be treated versus larger more-complicated, longer-term matters that might need more thorough consideration. Committee members also discussed having Susan Consoli return again to speak more about the Social Services need. Mr. Fortuna suggested the committee could consider a small amount of immediate funding for the summer for Social Services if they chose. Ms. Zavatone suggested that perhaps OS Cares could fill that need and give more time to consider the rest of the Social Services application.

Mr. Thorpe made a **MOTION** to send the applications from the Lions Club and The Estuary forward to the Board of Selectmen for funding consideration. Ms. McEvily seconded the motion and it passed unanimously with Ms. Esty abstaining.

Committee members agreed that more information was needed about the most urgent needs of Social Services and that OS Cares could be able to help in the interim. This request and the request for funding for the pavilion will remain on hold until all the applications are in.

Ms. Zavatone turned the role of chair back over to Ms. Esty.

Committee members reviewed and suggested changes to the ARPA flyer including activating the link to the website and changing the color of that line as well as adding a QR code. The press release was reviewed and members discussed where it would be sent. When changes are made to the flyer and all materials are available online, Ms. Donahue will send final copies to all committee members to distribute if they have inquiries.

VI. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE

There were no additional comments from committee members.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Esty made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 6:33 p.m. Ms. McEvily seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The next meeting of the committee will be held on Tuesday, July 12, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. in the Town Hall first-floor conference room.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Donahue