

ARPA Committee Meeting Minutes

February 28, 2022 at 11:00AM

Zoom Teleconference

Attendees:

John Kaufman
Kate Reid
Scott Triola

Other

Joan Ingersoll - Director, Council on Aging
Carol Grueneich - Social Services Manager

- **Review and approve prior meeting minutes**
 - *MOTION:* Kate Reid made motion to approve January 31, 2022 minutes as printed. John Kaufman seconded. Motion passed 3-0.
 - *MOTION:* Kate Reid made motion to approve February 8, 2022 minutes as printed. John Kaufman seconded. Motion passed 3-0.
 - *MOTION:* Kate Reid made motion to approve February 14, 2022 minutes as printed. John Kaufman seconded. Motion passed 3-0.
- **Meet with Council on Aging**
 - Director of COA identified areas of greatest need for potential ARPA support. These include:
 - **Mental health support:** This program is intended to address the effects of the pandemic on mental health and provide a time-limited course of therapeutic support. The Council on Aging and Board of Health will contract with specialized providers such as BetterHelp, Talkspace, and Blue Moon Senior Counseling, and will help participants with platform selection, registration, and technology as needed. The COA and BOH will also develop eligibility guidelines to ensure this project serves residents for whom cost is a barrier to services. Total program cost \$100k; \$30k funded through ARPA.
 - **Meal Delivery program:** Some Carlisle seniors have difficulty obtaining groceries and preparing meals, and experience food insecurity. The Carlisle COA will work with Heart to Home Meals, a provider of meals designed specifically for seniors, to implement a program to provide 4 home-delivered meals weekly. Program cost \$20k; \$10k would be funded with ARPA.
 - **Fuel/Rent Assistance:** During the pandemic COA saw increased demand for assistance programs such as fuel assistance, nutrition assistance, and emergency financial assistance. This program would provide rent subsidies to qualifying Seniors to bring their housing costs down to 30% of their income. Funding request ~\$50k.
 - ARPA committee requested that COA submit ARPA funding requests for highest priority areas discussed. Director of COA agreed to submit these requests prior to the next ARPA meeting.
 - Director of COA reiterated that COA Drivers performed essential function during pandemic and also lost pay with the decrease in ride requests (they are hourly workers).

ARPA Committee responded that premium pay was not being considered for any Town employee but that they would investigate options for how to assist these drivers (and other hourly workers who lost wages during pandemic).

- Director of COA indicated ARPA funds were not needed to support programming/events for Seniors. The current funding for these activities is sufficient and there is greater need for ARPA support in the other priority areas identified.

- **Funding request review**

- Scott Triola confirmed that the Municipal Facilities Committee (MFC) will be attending the next ARPA meeting to review their ARPA submissions and other priority projects.
- The ARPA Committee agreed that following the MFC discussion at the next meeting, individual ARPA requests will be reviewed and a formal position may be taken on those requests that receive unanimous support or unanimous lack of support. These positions will be communicated to the Select Board following the ARPA meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:46pm. Motion made by Kate Reid; seconded by John Kaufman. Motion passed 3-0.

(These minutes include all motions made and votes taken during this ARPA meeting.)

Minutes taken and submitted by Scott Triola.

Minutes approved on March 7, 2022 (3-0 vote).