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American Rescue Plan (ARP) Committee Meeting Minutes 1/5/2022

Meeting date:

Wednesday, January 5, 2022

Minutes:

Meeting of the Old Lyme American Rescue Plan (ARP) Committee

Meeting Date: January 5, 2022 @ Noon

Location: Old Lyme Town Hall – Meeting Hall

1. **Call to Order**: The meeting was called to order at 12.03 by the Chairman, Tom Gotowka.

Present: Jennifer Datum, Phil Parcak, Dave Roberge, Mary Seidner, Martha Shoemaker, Nicole Leger and Cheryl Poirier'

Via Phone: Mary Jo Nosal, Dennis Powers

Guests: Region #18 School Superintendent Ian Neviaser and Region #18 Business Manager Holly McCalla

2. **Approval of Minutes**: Jennifer motioned to approve the December 15, 2021 minutes. The motion was seconded by Rick. There were no abstentions or nays.

3. **Introduction of Region #18 School Superintendent Ian Neviaser**: Mary Seidner introduced Ian and Holly and asked them to provide an overview of how Region #18 allocated the already received Covid 19 relief funds. They summarized the expenditures and responded to committee members questions.

4. **Update on Community Needs Assessment Survey and Publicity**: Rick Stout acknowledged the tremendous efforts of committee member Cheryl Poirier in bringing the survey to fruition. The response rate has been great, currently at 10%. All committee members agreed that the survey results will be shared with the community when completed after the January 7, 2022 close. Rick motioned to schedule a special meeting on January 12, 2022 @1:00 to analyze the survey results. The motion was seconded by Dave. There were no abstentions or nays.

5. **Discussion of Urgent and Immediate Community Needs**:

Committee members discussed the most immediate needs during this surge in Covid cases. Seniors are again isolated and Test Kits are scarce. Rick motioned to recommend that the Board of Selectman allot up to \$115,000 of ARPA funds to assist with purchasing and distribution of Test Kits to every resident of Old Lyme. The allocation would also include communication costs. The motion was seconded by Mary Jo. There were no abstentions or nays.

6. New Funding Requests: None known at this time.

7. New Business: Cheryl reported that the Economic Development Commission is holding a forum on January 22, 2022 and she has asked Rick to attend and present the survey results received from local business owners. Dave reported that RiverCog plans to have a proposal for a shared administrative/reporting tool ready by early February. Dave will invite Sam Gold to the ARPC meeting on February 9, 2022.

8. Public Comments:

Lenny Corto of Old Lyme asked that the committee recognize his funding request for Sound View Brewing Company. The recent spike is negatively affecting local businesses and the next few months will be difficult to survive.

9- Adjournment: a motion to adjourn was made by Phil and seconded by Martha. There was no discussion. The motion passed with all attending in favor. There were no abstentions or nays. The meeting adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne McAuliffe, Clerk

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