Town of Orange

 ARPA Committee Meeting-Orange Town Hall

June 29, 2022 at 6:00pm

**ARPA committee members present:** John Barnes, Lee Cattaneo, Sue Perreault, Siobhan Perricone, Steve Simpson, Lee Youngman

Call to order:

Steve Simpson called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Guest Speakers and Public Comment:

No guest speakers present.

Approve Minutes from May 25, 2022 meeting:

On a motion made by Lee Youngman and seconded by Sue Perreault, the minutes of the May 25th meeting were approved as presented. Streve Simpson abstained. The motion passed.

Review Budget:

Ms. Youngman reviewed the budget with the committee members. The committee members asked that the proposed budgets for digitizing land records, salary differentials, new computer for Treasurer, drilling well and road upgrades be added to the NEMRC budget so we can see money committed and money unexpended all in one place. Lee will send that out next week.

Review final results of town-wide mailing:

Ms. Youngman shared final results of mailing. We sent out approximately 600 pieces and received back 55. The most favored project was road upgrades (34 in favor), followed by drilling well (31), recreation opportunities (26), broadband (25) and employee recruitment and retention (25). The committee discussed proposing projects based on resident feedback versus based on what’s best for the town in terms of longevity and legacy. We agreed to try to find a balance between the two. The committee also reviewed the other suggestions given by residents.

Consider projects to recommend for approval to Select Board:

The committee will recommend adding Emerald Ash Borer mitigation efforts to the project list. Lee Cattaneo said the Planning Commission is working with CVRPC to update the tree inventory which will give us a better sense of how much we need to budget.

Ms. Youngman asked the committee to consider allocating a percentage of the total award to road upgrades. After discussions about how we could best use the funds, the committee recommends that project money be spent on contractors doing paving projects, rather than the road crew being paid by ARPA for maintenance. Ms. Youngman made a motion to allocate 20% of our total award $$66,500) to a paving project to be identified by the town’s road foreman and Select Board at a later date. Ms. Perricone seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Youngman and Mr. Barnes informed the committee of urgent repairs needed at the town clerk’s office. Ms. Youngman shared the select board’s desire that the committee consider clerk’s office and town hall repairs on a holistic level so as not to duplicate work. The committee agreed that drilling the well is urgent and proposes that work move ahead this year. Mr. Cattaneo informed the committee that the town is embarking on a 5 year Capital Improvement Plan, and well discussions should be a part of this plan. The town clerk, Angela Eastman, is actively looking for updated quotes from the companies she spoke to in February.

The committee discussed recreation projects and agreed to move forward on estimates for the trails being developed in the town forest in accordance with recommendations in the town’s 5 year plan. Ms. Youngman will measure the distance that needs to be ditched on the Beard Road right of way, and in the town forest, will estimate how many culverts are needed and report back. Mr. Simpson will speak the Dave Watson, to see if he would be interested or available to come out and look at the trail and give us an estimate.

Given a lack of interest in several projects and their low scoring on our scoring criteria, the committee removed the following projects from further consideration: Rainbow Bridge, Constable position and Emergency response. Ms. Youngman will remove them from the spreadsheet.

Ms. Youngman presented John McNeil’s proposal to purchase a new computer for the Treasurer. She is currently running on Windows 11 and her computer is old enough to not support the email provider used by the town. On a motion made by Ms. Perricone and seconded by Ms. Perreault, the committee approved allocating up to $1000 for new computer equipment for the Treasurer. Ms. Youngman abstained.

Date of next meeting:

The next meeting was set for Wednesday, August 24th at 6:00 pm at the Town Hall.

Adjournment: On a motion made Ms. Perreault and seconded by Ms. Perricone, the meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Lee Youngman, Clerk

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On a motion made by Ms. Perricone and seconded by Ms. Perreault the meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM

Respectfully submitted:

Lee Youngman, Clerk of the committee