

Shaftsbury ARPA committee

September 29, 2022

Cole Hall and remotely via Zoom

1) Call to order

The meeting was called at order at 6:04 p.m. Present were committee members Andrea Bacchi (chair), Rick Bennett, Betsy Habberfield and Naomi Miller. Also present was zoning administrator Shelly Stiles and town administrator David Kiernan.

2) Conflict of interest

No one reported a conflict of interest with any item on the agenda.

3) Minutes

Ms. Miller moved to approve the September 1 minutes. Ms. Habberfield seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

In a late addition to the agenda, Jennie Rozycki, Executive Director of the John G McCullough Library in N. Bennington, presented a request for support to purchase a kind of library kiosk/mobile library branch for \$90,000 for the unit plus additional infrastructure and maintenance costs. It would hold 253 items, have a computer interface, serve as a wifi hotspot, offer a space to download E books, and provide a space to drop books off. It is not staffed. It resembles a vending machine. Ms. Bacchi said she would share the pamphlet Ms. Rozycki sent her earlier. Ms. Rozycki said for security reasons it should be in a well-lit public place. Ms. Rozycki said about one-third of the library's card holders are from Shaftsbury. She said she will investigate what other towns have the kiosks and report back on their experiences through Ms. Bacchi.

4) Community Club request

Mr. Bennett reported that Rick Kobick had sent in a quote from Vermont Roofing (a local company): one-half of the roof would cost \$26,940; the entire roof plus the tower would cost \$63,750.

Mr. Bennett said he would make changes to a summary of the survey results he received and then share it for posting on the website.

5) Goals and planning

Ms. Bacchi said she spoke with Jeff Johnson, elementary school principal, about seeking student input on how to spend funds. He will share questions crafted by Ms. Bacchi with the students via Google Docs. Ms. Bacchi will collate their responses. She will ask that she receive them by Oct. 7.

Ms. Bacchi will polish her draft slide show after receiving the student responses and in time for the October 13 public meeting.

The group discussed whether it should simply summarize the survey results in its presentation to the Select Board or make recommendations as to which items should be funded. Ms. Miller said she thought the committee should "speak for the people."

6) Public comments

There were none.

7) Other business

The next meeting will be held October 7 at 10 a. The following committee-only meeting will be held October 21, 9 a.m.

Everyone congratulated Ms. Bacchi on her draft slide presentation. Ms. Cornwell suggested a graphic summarizing what people value in Shaftsbury.

8) Action items

Mr. Bennett will revise his document.

Ms. Bacchi will prepare for SES outreach and compile responses.

Ms. Bacchi will send out a press release after Mr. Kiernan and the Select Board reviews it.

The webmaster will place a "hold the date" for the October 13 public meeting on the website.

9) Adjournment

Mr. Bennett moved to adjourn at 7:25 p.m. Ms. Habberfield seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.