

**ARPA Committee Meeting
Town of St Johnsbury
October 17, 2022**

Committee members in attendance: Chad Whitehead, Gillian Sewake, Patrick Shattuck, Scott Campbell, Jody Fried, Nick Anzalone, and Joe Kasprzak.

Members of the public: Representatives from HCH Enterprises

Meeting Minutes

- **Open Meeting/Agenda Amendments:** Meeting opened 12:02. No agenda amendments.
- **Public Comment:** None.
- **HCH Update on Focus Group and Public Input**

HCH has completed focus groups: housing (2), recreation (2), small business/creative economy, infrastructure, mental health & social services (2). They are working to pull together the themes and ideas that are arising so far, and presented a draft results document.

Housing appears to be a concern across all focus groups, inclusive of all facets and dimensions.

Discussion of how to prioritize impact vs. funding vs. some other criteria. Leverage was identified as a particular area of interest to the ARPA Committee (especially since these funds can be used as non-federal match). Other priorities include sustainability, and alignment with the Town Plan and community feedback.

Committee question about the effectiveness of outreach so far. HCH feels that there has been broad outreach with good representation from a broad swath of the community, however the sample size is relatively small. HCH does want to host a Town Hall-style public meeting at the Welcome Center. Gillian volunteered to help set a date and coordinate that.

Committee question about how to roll out the community feedback and ideas from the committee into implementation. HCH described some examples of products they have prepared in the past, including a "Rescue Plan" based on the community feedback, and criteria (both subjective and objective) for selection for applications for ARPA funds.

Clarification: the ARPA committee's role will be to rank and make recommendations of applications submitted to the committee, to present to the selectboard for final approval. Impartiality will be important, as the committee is made up of agencies and entities working within many of the fields that are being prioritized for application.

Deliverables: HCH will develop a short list of application criteria for the committee's review, as well as finalize the focus group document.

- **Other Business:** Next meeting is set for Monday, November 21 at noon.
- **Adjourned:** 1:02pm

Respectfully submitted,
Gillian Sewake, Committee Member