

**ARPA Committee Meeting  
Town of St Johnsbury  
May 4, 2023**

Committee members in attendance: Chad Whitehead, Gillian Sewake, Jody Fried, Nick Anzalone, Joe Kasprzak, Jenna O'Farrell, Patrick Shattuck.

Members of the public in attendance: Peter Van Straten

**Meeting Minutes**

- **Open Meeting/Public Comment:** Meeting opened 2:02pm.

Peter asked a few questions about grants on behalf of specific projects.

- **Conflict of Interest Policy**

Discussion of the role of the current ARPA Committee and how to work through conflicts of interest, considering that many of the committee members are potential applicants.

Consensus is that the ARPA Committee takes a dormant role during the active phase of grant-making, possibly to reconvene to review how the grant-making process went under the first round, to make tweaks for future rounds.

- **Grant Scoring Sub-Committee**

Chad will be reaching out to community organizations who may not be submitting applicants to see if they could see if there are folks who would be willing to serve. Committee members should send ideas to Chad.

- **Other Business**

Chad mentioned a proposal from the St. J Development Fund to purchase the Hastings Hill hotel site, raze it, and turn it into a develop-able property. STJDF is seeking funders, and they plan to go directly to the selectboard to seek ARPA funding in the amount of \$200,000.

Also at the selectboard meeting, Jody will be introducing the "Creative Campus" property acquisition for the property next to their current building. This is not a formal ask for ARPA transformational funds at this point, pending environmental reviews, etc. It would be a similar-scale ask to the above.

Coming up, Northern Forest Center will be coming to talk about the 560 Railroad Street redevelopment project at an upcoming selectboard meeting.

- **Adjourned:** 2:21.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gillian Sewake, Committee Member