

RECEIVED
STAFFORD, CT
2 pages

2022 MAY 18 PM 2:57

Richard Hartenstein
TOWN CLERK

Stafford ARPA Commission

Public Hearing

May 16, 2022

7:00pm

Stafford Community Center

Commission Members Present: Chairman Richard Hartenstein, David Bachiochi, James Desso, Cathy Cannon, Sal Titus, Steve Geryk, Amber Wakley-Whaley

Members Absent: Trooper Jesse McClain, Karen Troiano

Citizens Present: 15

Chairman Richard Hartenstein opened the hearing at 7:00pm by introducing the purpose of the hearing and each commission member. He turned over the podium to Amber who presented the background and current status of the commission activities. She continued to facilitate the public comment portion of the hearing.

Bill Morrison advocated for apparatus for the West Stafford Fire Department

Q: Can such apparatus be purchased through ARPA?

A: Such apparatus is eligible. It may be further eligible for some other matching grants. The Commission needs to have cost, implementation plan, more than one bid if practical, and description of the benefit to the community in order to proceed with the prioritization / approval process.

Matt Martel advocated for the skateboard park and other recreational facilities

Q: Can a project secure funding for long term maintenance of the facility / structure? For example, can the cost of the upkeep to a \$100K skatepark continue for 10+ years?

A: Not exactly. All expenditures must be completed prior to December 31, 2026. This provides some time to develop a maintenance plan either through private funding or public budget line items. The Commission has been guided by the Treasury department NOT to create a financial cliff, so some plan is needed. A long term maintenance plan could be purchased in advance of 12/31/2026. Projects with ongoing expenses need to partner with some other funding source.

Leonard Clark advocated for expansion of the Water Pollution Control Facility

Q: Are there any projects to expand capacity of the WPCF to support business expansion in Stafford?

A: The projects proposed and approved to date are targeted at a major cyber security upgrade to keep the facility operational. There have been no proposals to expand capacity. Amber is quite certain any such proposal would be eligible. The Commission would need cost, scope implementation plan, benefit to the community to consider a proposal.

Tony Armelin advocated for including other town commission and business organizations for their input

Q: Have any other commissions been engaged?

A: There have been formal discussions with Family Services and informal discussion with some other town organizations and some local businesses. The ARPA Commission will take this suggestion under advisement at their next meeting.

Anne Marie Perone advocated for additional transportation alternatives for elderly housing residents.

Residents of the Woodland Springs senior citizen community behind the Big Y would benefit from more prevalent transportation options to better get out into the community. The Commission will entertain specific proposals (cost, scope, etc) and will review with Family Services.

Blake Hatch advocated for lights at the Stafford High School varsity soccer field

The field at SHS was constructed approximately 22 years ago and included underground infrastructure to install lights at a future time. Now is the time. An updated quote for the lights was recently received in the amount of ~\$300K. Bleachers, protective perimeter fencing, and a scoreboard were similarly envisioned. A scoreboard has since been procured and much of the perimeter is secure. Cost for bleachers remains unknown. Blake has recently delivered the detailed plans from the original project to the town hall to facilitate a potential project.

Carol Parker advocated for Summer Recreation

Q: What is the proposed line item for Summer Rec Equipment for one year? Does it include any funding for new picnic tables at Staffordville Lake?

A: The line item is to support equipment that has been previously removed from the Recreation budget when the program was suspended during Covid. Amber is submitting a grant application tomorrow for Summer Rec that could supplant the need to fund this line item out of ARPA. Regarding the picnic tables, the Parks department has recently been tasked to review what is needed at Staffordville Lake to include picnic tables and lifeguard stands, and other infrastructure. Such items would be eligible for ARPA funding.

Alex Moore advocated for AED devices

The existing proposed project for 5 AED devices are targeted for youth sports venues. Alex recommended we expand that purchase to cover other public facilities in Stafford. The Commission discussed that exact point at last week's meeting and an inventory of potential locations is being gathered. This will help Stafford continue its Heartsafe posture.

In closing, Amber encouraged all in attendance to reach out to any Commission member or the group email called ARPA@staffordct.org with additional ideas. Dave Bachiochi emphasized the need for the Commission to prioritize the proposed projects now as the cost of the existing ideas has already exceeded the grant amount.

The Commission thanks all who provided feedback at the hearing and all who submitted input via the survey for their opinions and advice.

Adjournment

Upon hearing no further questions or comments, the hearing was adjourned at 7:50pm.

Respectfully submitted Recording Secretary,

David Bachiochi
David Bachiochi
5/12/2022