

Minutes

- I. Call to Order: 10 am
- II. FAC Members: Sheila Morse, Gordon Little, Lynn Pancake, Anne Rider
- III. Recognition of Public: Leah Gessner (Guilford Cares), Dunham Rowley, Dwayne Johnson, and Fred Breunig (Guilford Community Church), Richard Wizansky, Michael Becker, Rusty Marine, and Zon Eastes (SB), Don McLean and Rick Zamore (Broad Brook Community Center), Anne Montgomery (Conservation Commission), Julie Beet and Anna Klein (Neighborhood Roots Food Collective), Karen Murphy (Guilford Preservation Inc.), Dana Berry (CC4G), Rick Zamore, Cathi Wilken (Guilford Free Library),
- IV. Review of ARPA principles and guidelines : Sheila Morse and Richard Wizansky both gave an introduction to the meeting and ARPA funding. Richard reviewed the restrictions of the ARPA funding. In consultation with Katie Buckley, the Vermont official assisting communities with disbursement of ARPA funds, he learned that the most viable projects will be those with wide community impact. She also noted that funding is not a viable solution for buildings, which are far more expensive than the total amount of ARPA dollars.
- V. Brief summary by each group of their mission, strengths, needs, challenges, and resources
 - a. Leah Gessner gave a brief overview of Guilford Cares. Their flagship programs are the food pantry, medical equipment loans, and homecare nursing. They are in need of permanent space to host their programs. The food pantry and Tai Chi classes are temporarily located at the fairgrounds; medical equipment is currently stored at Leah's home. She briefly discussed succession planning for the organization and the struggles they are facing with that. Leah also noted that one of their strengths is that they have a strong pulse on what is going on in Guilford, especially for elders and those with food insecurity or in need of home care.
 - b. Dana Berry shared the mission statement and goals of Community Collaborative for Guilford (CC4G). The organization is focused on providing year-round 10 hours per day services to the youngest families in Guilford with early childhood education and after school services for Guilford. They are also able to expand their programming to other age groups, once they have a facility in place. Although they have financial resources and access to both State and Federal funding for child and elder care programs, their biggest needs are land/facility and engaging others in their work.
 - c. Anne Rider (FAC member) shared on behalf Friends of Algiers Village (FAV) the work with Broad Brook Foods (Guilford Country Store) to apply for funding. FAV is exploring other projects in Algiers Village to enhance public access to the area: trails, traffic calming for pedestrian safety, use of the field adjacent to the store.

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- d. Karen Murphy gave a brief history of Guilford Preservation Inc (GPI). She noted that there is no funding for “senior housing;” the focus is on mixed use housing. The organization, in line with the Conservation Commission, is educating residents on the development of denser housing in the village instead of sprawl. The organization is also looking at a partnership with Windham and Windsor Housing Trust.
 - e. Anna Klein introduced Neighborhood Roots Food Collective and how the organization came to be. One of their biggest goals is the creation of a food hub in Guilford; they’ve been collaborating with GPI on a potential partnership. Their biggest resource is the energy of the community involved in their work. Julie Beet shared a little more information about their upcoming meeting with the VT Land Trust about what is allowable on the GPI property.
 - f. Dunham Rowley shared that the Guilford Community Church is planning to develop a public park on the church property with a basketball court, an open pavilion, an ADA accessible labyrinth, etc. He provided draft drawings created by Stevens and Associates for the church and noted that the project would cost approximately \$300,000, which the church will go to its members for contributions.
 - g. Rick Zamore described the work at the Grange building by the Broad Brook Community Center. He noted that the state requirements for the project significantly increased the cost of renovations. Over one-third of Guilford households have contributed to their capital campaigns, showing broad support for their project. Rick shared some of the struggles they are facing with their project, including major cost increases due to COVID, and their hope for ARPA funding to reimburse some of these costs. The BBCC regularly partners with the Library, the Town, and the Guilford Community School and is hoping to re-partner with Guilford Cares.
 - h. Cathi Wilken explained how the Library can serve as a cost-free (to families) after school program for Guilford families, and indicated that would require additional staffing.
 - i. Anne Montgomery described the Conservation Commission’s and their interest in collaborating with others in town about expanding and/or improving outdoor recreation spaces.
- VI. Review of community goals and priorities (Town Plan, VCRD, and Windham Regional Planning Commission)
- a. These were covered during the conversation.
- VII. In-depth discussion to see if it's possible to work together, synchronizing our strengths and combining resources, to achieve these priorities and goals within the context of the ARPA funding guidelines.
- a. Sheila noted the common themes that ran through or were inferred by the discussions: the goal to increase resiliency in Guilford, the need for water and sewer service, the need for land and building to provide services, and the widespread work

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to improve access to and the use of outdoor space. ALSO, each group is seeking additional volunteers to help with and carry on their work in this community.

- b. There was a general discussion among participants that further explained the work of the different groups and appreciation for the gathering and the possibilities that may arise from collaboration.
- c. Sheila thanked everyone for their time and contributions, and invited further communication with the FAC to inform their consideration of the Selectboard's charge: to explore if and how the ARPA funds might benefit Guilford at large.
- d. The FAC will convene another meeting to consider the issues raised.
- e. This meeting was recorded and will be available on the Guilford Town website: www.guilfordvt.com

VIII. Adjournment: 11:35