

ARPA Meeting
11/09/2022

Present: Jeff Keeney, Rob Leotard, Laura Nugent, Carrie Austgen, Anne Sasso, Connor Timmons

Starksboro Public Library Proposal

Proposing Group: Susan Thompson, Christa Freeman, Jake Mendel

Goal: Improve fire safety and ADA accessibility - making Town Hall/Library second floor accessible. Part of this proposal includes possible parking spaces in front of the building, access from Route 116. The proposers have not researched this with Agency of Transportation.

There is a ramp and will need to increase the pavement there to get two handicapped spots. The goal is to make the second floor accessible. Jeff notes there is a boundary issue and the addition may be placed on Kerry Shepard's property. The quote includes a survey to determine whether this project is viable. This committee notes that items 1-4 need to be done first as the foundation before moving forward. They are 1. updated structural engineering audit, 2. Site survey, 3. Updated environmental Assessment, 4. Architectural Services. Kate notes that Moretown has hired an architectural company for a very similar project that will include community outreach and followed by 3 plans. The proposers can approach the select board to request the money for survey before ARPA funds are available.

Project A is less expensive than Project B. Project B allows the elevator to reach both floors and the stage and provides access to the front of the building. Project A does not include elevator access to the elevator. There are other ways to include the stage.

The limited use elevator doesn't require substructure as a regular elevator does. It does look similar to regular elevators. There is one in Burnham Hall in Bristol and the town hall in Huntington as well. This elevator is standard use for libraries in local communities.

This property is an asset for the town and is only 50% accessible. The building has significant historical value as well. The space has been featured as a historical opera house and has been used for many events in the past including parties and shows. Research demonstrates the value of libraries as a means to reknit communities.

The HCAC project is not part of this proposal.

Discussion: The committee discussed the function of the committee. Our charge is to make recommendation, not to allocate funds. The committee will provide numerical rank and a narrative to the selectboard. The committee will rank the top three projects as well.

The ACHC and John Graham Shelter proposals do not meet criteria of the spirit of the grant as these proposals are looking to hire staff. The Maple Broadband proposal received a very low score (0). The committee will send the information to the selectboard.

Meeting minutes accepted - Carrie made motion, Rob seconded. Motion passed.

September notes missing - video on website for Laura to review.

Next meeting is December 14th