

Isle La Motte ARPA Committee Meeting  
Regular Meeting  
11 October 2023  
6:30 pm  
Town Office at Isle La Motte School and Zoom

**In Attendance** : Steve Stata, Carol Stata, Mary LaBrecque, Peter Brzozowy, and Mark Dostaler

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by ARPA Committee Chair Steve Stata.

**2. Approve Meeting Minutes of 09/13/2023** : A motion was made by Mary LaBrecque to accept the meeting minutes of 09/13, seconded by Mark Dostaler. All in favor.

**3. Discuss Communications to Public : Social Media, Facebook, Islander, etc.** : The committee discussed various ways to reach out to the public to encourage attendance at meetings. Clerk Mary LaBrecque indicated that the posting in The Islander can only be done one week at a time. She will reach out to the Islander. It was also noted that there is a new Facebook page for town government information, Mary will check into it.

**4. Discuss/act on Evaluation Criteria : Cost and feasibility** were suggested by Mary LaBrecque and Peter Brzozowy, who also suggested **impact**. There was discussion about the different demographics that could be used to identify the groups of residents that would be the beneficiaries of the use of the funds. Peter Brzozowy brought up that the town government has a list of priorities, however there is also the “perceived need” by the public. In addition he brought up that ultimately, the Select Board has the authority to use the money as it sees fit. Steve Stata commented that he felt it was up to the committee to prioritize the results of the survey. There was discussion about prioritizing recommending uses of the ARPA funds in a way that would benefit the larger majority of residents. There was also discussion about the end date for the survey, nobody remembered seeing a deadline for completion. Steve Stata suggested evaluating each item on the survey with just a plus or a minus. Peter Brzozowy suggested that impact to taxes and benefit to the largest percentage of residents should drive the recommendations. There was some discussion about what to do if a suggestion came from the survey, but more information was needed. Carol Stata felt that any suggestions should be taken at face value, and there should not be any further response from the committee. Peter Brzozowy commented that if an individual came to a meeting they would get more attention for their idea, and Mark Dostaler felt that anyone coming to a public meeting to share their idea would be more transparent as it is recorded. Steve Stata suggested putting out a notice that if anyone gave an idea as part of the survey, to consider attending a meeting to give further information. Carol Stata disagreed, stating that the way surveys should be conducted, there should not be any additional outreach for more detailed information. There was more discussion about the difference between a survey response, an email response, and an in person response to ideas presented. Peter Brzozowy felt that the goal is to get the biggest “bang for our buck” for the town. He also suggested inviting those who present ideas to possibly be invited to a meeting to expand on their idea. Steve Stata indicated that he would compile the criteria into a spreadsheet which will be shared with the group and attached to the minutes when available.

Steve also will contact Carmine Centrella (Chair of the Town Planning Committee) as to the survey deadline.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary LaBrecque