



Arlington Economic Development Recovery Task Force Minutes

Date: Tuesday September 21, 2021

Time: 2:00-3:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://town-arlington-ma-us.zoom.us/j/96211802074>

Meeting ID: 962 1180 2074

Passcode: 776846

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Present: Jennifer Raitt, Dept. of Planning and Community Development; Ali Carter, Dept. of Planning and Community Development; Leland Stein, Regent Theater; Bob Bowes, Gibson Sotheby's International Realty; Emily Shea, Kickstand Café; Sarah Morgan-Wu, The Object of Stories; Bootsy Mullan, Town Tavern; Alyssa Clossey, Support Arlington Center; Rachel Zsembery, Arlington Redevelopment Board; Beth Locke, Arlington Chamber of Commerce; Steve Poltorzycki, Arlington Commission for Arts and Culture

Guest: Len Diggins, Stephanie Marlin-Curiel, Jennifer Truesdale

1. Approval of minutes for 3/17/21, 5/18/21, and 8/17/21 meetings
 - a. Motion by Sarah Morgan-Wu, seconded by Emily Shea. Unanimous vote of approval for all minutes.
2. Public health update: 2,129 confirmed cases; 202 probable cases; 1,193 recoveries; 88 deaths. Leland Stein asked if the Health Department tracked the % positive test rate at the local level, and Ali said she would ask the Dept. of Health and Human Services.
3. American Rescue Plan Act allocations for economic development
Ali provided an overview of the proposal that the Town Manager has presented to the Select Board for their consideration and opened the conversation to questions and comments. Beth Locke asked if the funds could be used to support larger-scale projects. Jenny explained that the proposal outlined by the Town Manager is based on current ARPA guidance provided by the federal

government, which could change, but for now the recommendations align with what the program says ARPA funds are allowed to support. Erik Kondo asked how many businesses the funding would be able to support, and Ali said it could range from the 585 businesses with commercial addresses in town to more than 1,200 if we include nonprofits, home-based businesses, and artists as outlined in the proposal. Leland Stein asked if recent CDBG grantees would be ineligible, and Ali replied in the negative. He next asked if there was a cap on sustaining proposal expenses (i.e., request that do not fund rent, utilities, and payroll). Ali replied that there was no cap per business for sustaining expenses except for home-based businesses. She also clarified that Airbnb hosts would not be eligible to apply. Emily Shea asked if the Town could use these funds to support more outdoor business infrastructure town wide. Jenny replied that such expenses could be eligible and joint applications are welcome, but that it is ultimately based on the recommendations of the Select Board. Emily clarified that she was referring to that funding coming from the entire \$35 million dollar pool of ARPA funds the Town received and not just for individual applications from businesses. Len stated that he liked Emily's idea. ARPA could fund improvements to open spaces to provide more equity, more opportunities to improve the mental health of residents, school children, and others. He also commented that the Board is interested in hearing the final determination of how the state will expend their ARPA funds so that local allocations are not redundant. Leland Stein commented via chat that businesses could use help in managing proof of vaccination for customers as well as expenses for businesses that cannot operate outdoors.

4. Task Force recommendations to Select Board.

Ali described that she will be making a presentation to the Select Board on Monday October 25th to make recommendations on behalf of the Task Force on the following issues that have been discussed in past meetings.

- a. New economic development committee structure.
- b. Outdoor Restaurant and Retail Permit application.
- c. Proposed revisions to alcohol rules for restaurants.

Regarding streamlining outdoor dining and retail license processes, Len suggested minimizing the number of trips that businesses must take to the Select Board. He also added that forms should be online. Ali explained that at the next meeting she will present to the Task Force a draft of her memo to the Select Board for their review and to vote upon.

Next meeting: Tuesday October 19th at 2 p.m.