



Town of Reading Meeting Posting with Agenda

Board - Committee - Commission - Council:

Reading Arpa Advisory Committee (Raac)

Date: 2022-05-24

Time: 7:00 PM

Building: Reading Public Library

Location: Community Room

Address: 64 Middlesex Avenue

Agenda:

Purpose: General Business

Meeting Called By: Jacquelyn LaVerde on behalf of Chair Marianne Downing

Notices and agendas are to be posted 48 hours in advance of the meetings excluding Saturdays, Sundays and Legal Holidays. Please keep in mind the Town Clerk's hours of operation and make necessary arrangements to be sure your posting is made in an adequate amount of time. A listing of topics that the chair reasonably anticipates will be discussed at the meeting must be on the agenda.

All Meeting Postings must be submitted in typed format; handwritten notices will not be accepted.

Topics of Discussion:

This meeting will be held in-person at the Reading Public Library Community Room and remotely via Zoom:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87176194748>

Meeting ID: 871 7619 4748

One tap mobile

+16465189805,,87176194748# US (New York)

+16465588656,,87176194748# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 646 518 9805 US (New York)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 871 7619 4748

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/u/kcKbKGcCTJ>

AGENDA (All start and end times listed are approximate):

7:00-7:05	Call to Order
7:05-7:10	Public Comment
7:10-7:55	PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION/VOTE - Elder Services/Jean Delios/Town Manager to provide updated, time-sensitive request for ARPA funding for elder services/senior needs, including more details on listed items in \$900K ARPA request presented at 5/11/2022 RAAC meeting

This Agenda has been prepared in advance and represents a listing of topics that the chair reasonably anticipates will be discussed at the meeting. However the agenda does not necessarily include all matters which may be taken up at this meeting.



Town of Reading Meeting Posting with Agenda

7:55-8:10	PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION - READING FIRST RESPONDERS: Lt. Detective Abate on behalf of Reading first responders, ARPA funding request for premium pay for first responders based on work during pandemic (follow up to public comment at 4/12/2022 meeting); community comparisons of ARPA funding in other communities for similar purpose
8:10-8:30	PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION - AFSCME LOCAL 1703: Michael Fiorentino on behalf of AFSCME local 1703, relating to ARPA funding request for hazard/premium pay for represented municipal workers, based on work during pandemic
8:30-8:45	PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION - READING HISTORICAL COMMISSION: Samantha Couture/Town to present ARPA funding request for certain Historical Commission needs, including digitization, temporary archivist, software
8:45-9:15	PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION - CONSERVATION: Conservation/Town to present ARPA funding request for certain needs relating to Maillet Sommes Morgan conservation lands
9:15-9:25	Discuss future agenda items
9:25-9:30	Review/Approve minutes from 4/12/2022 meeting and 5/11/2022 meeting
9:30	Adjourn



Town of Reading - Elder Human Services



5/24/22 - Reading ARPA Advisory Committee Presentation on Elder Human Services Needs



Senior Citizens (Age 60+) Growing Population

(source: Umass 4/22 Public Forum)

Age Category	Number	Percentage
Under age 18	6,187	25%
Age 18-49	8,758	35%
Age 50 to 59	3,803	15%
Age 60 to 79	5,266	21%
Age 80 and older	1,222	5%
Total	25,236	100%

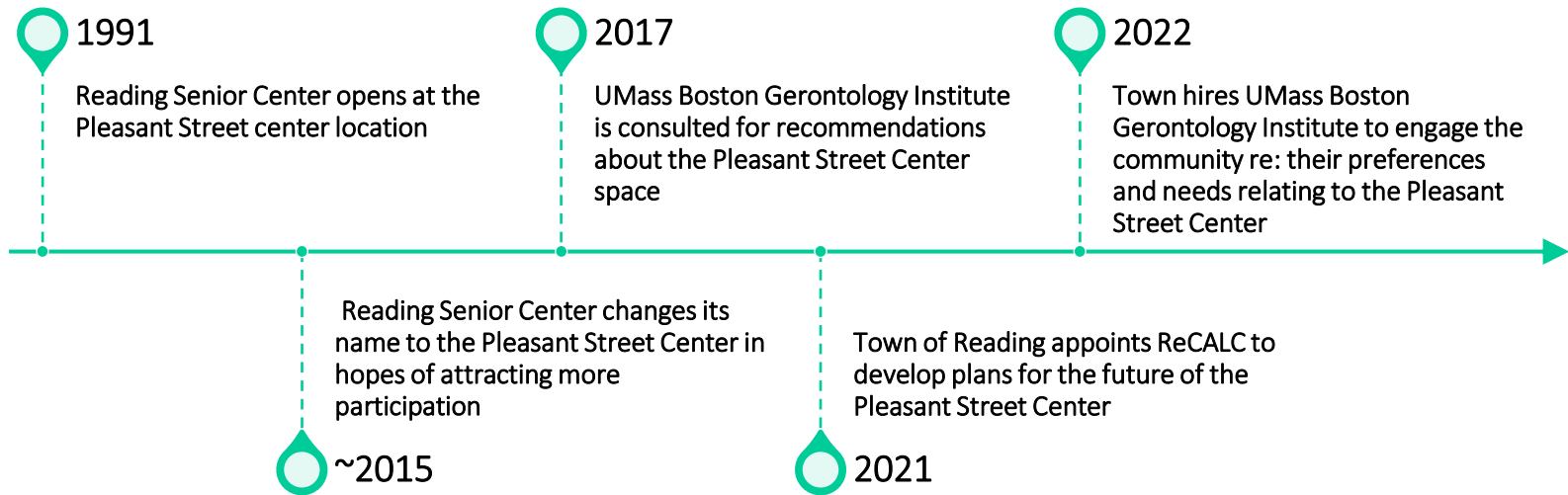
Source: American Community Survey, 2016-2020, Table B01001. Numbers are calculated from 5-year survey estimates.





Planning Process Senior/Community Center

(source: UMass 4/22 Public Forum)





What We Have Heard Seniors Need

Wellness
Socialization
Transportation
Entertainment
Games
Trips
Arts



Reading Center for Active Living Committee (ReCalc)

A volunteer ad hoc committee reporting to the Select Board

The charge of ReCalc:

Explore the current and future needs of the Community, and initiate planning for a potential new Senior/Community Center in town that will focus on residents aged 60+ and possibly other members of the Community.



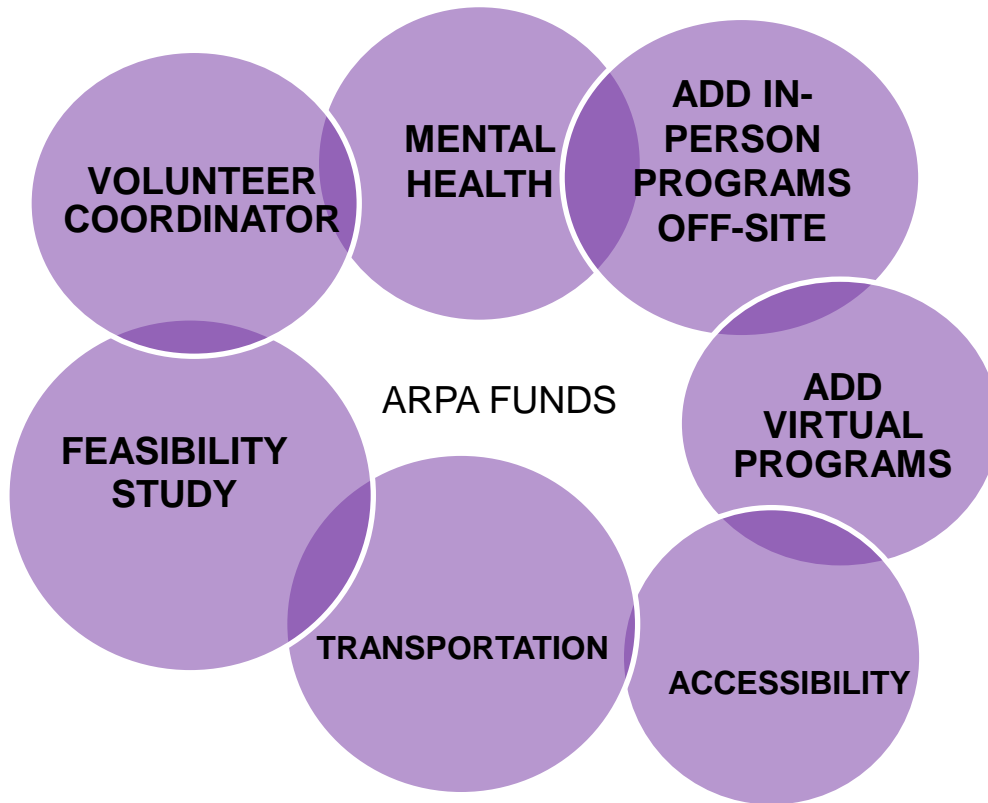


Planning for New Center

- **Vision** – A far reaching vision for the future is needed to plan for the needs of the community.
- **Re-Calc Benchmarking** – 21 area communities
- **UMass** – Community Engagement
- **Public Forum #3** – 6/1/22 7:00 p.m. RPL
- **ReCalc/UMass Data Collection** - inform the next steps



Request for ARPA Funds





ARPA Funds - Short-Term and Long-Term Needs

Short-Term (Outsourced Supplemental Services):

- Off-site programming, partner first with Library
- Expand bus trips
- Add virtual programs
- New activities under the tent
- “Wellness Wednesdays”

Long-Term

- Fund Feasibility Study for new Center



ELDER SERVICES REQUEST ARPA FUNDS

1. Feasibility Study	\$300,000
2. Supplemental Programming/Space	\$250,000
3. Senior Bus Trips	\$150,000
4. Wellness Programs	\$ 75,000
5. Virtual Programming	\$ 25,000
6. Volunteer Coordinator (contracted)	\$ 50,000
7. Accessibility Improvements	<u>\$ 50,000</u>
	\$900,000



\$300,000 - Feasibility Study

Evaluate BOTH New Construction and Re-Use/Expansion of Existing Historic PSC –

- \$150,000 - Baseline Services: Existing Conditions, Space Needs Program, Alternative Site Identification, Cost Estimates, Public Meetings.
- \$ 30,000 - Geotechnical
 - \$ 20,000 - Structural
 - \$ 50,000- Hazardous Materials
 - \$ 25,000 - Traffic and Parking Study
 - \$ 25,000 - Historical Analysis



\$250,000 Programming/Space 24 months

Rent Space Off Site (churches, schools, or other) – \$70,000

Instructors, Supplies, Etc. (contract with vendors)- \$30,000

Staff Support, Promotion, Administration, - \$100,000

Budget for Food, and other - \$50,000



\$150,000 Senior Bus Trips

	2022	2023	2024	Total Cost
Holiday Pops	1			\$10,000
March – October (incl. Holiday Pops)		20		90,000
March-October (inc. Holiday Pops)			10	50,000
Total				\$150,000



\$75,000 - Wellness Programs

Outsource to Vendors for Programming on holistic therapy once per month at the Reading Public Library
Some services could be at no cost:

- Pet Therapy
- Meditation
- Reiki
- Classes on the Town Common
- Cost of outsourcing is (approx. \$200/session; 375 sessions/24 mo. Or 15 +/- sessions/month).
- Bonus is this extends outreach and referral of patrons to existing clinician and EHS Team

5/24/22 - Reading ARPA Advisory Committee Presentation on Elder Human Services Needs



\$25,000 - Virtual Programming

Contract Out for Virtual Programming Services

- Company in Newton as an example
- Cost of contracting for professional services is estimate to be over 24 months.



\$50,000 - Contracted Volunteer Coordinator

- Build a team that can sustain programming with volunteers
- Coordinate the volunteers in a way that supplements existing programs and provides a bridge to the future
- Create programs led by volunteers that can be replicated without relying on ARPA Funds



\$50,000 - Accessibility Improvements

- Funding for Interpreters at events who can translate audio using sign language
- Improvements to Audio Systems to Enhance Programming and Users Experience



Questions?

Jean Delios
Assistant Town Manager
idelios@ci.reading.ma.us
781-942-6612

24/22 - Reading ARPA Advisory Committee Presentation on Elder Human Services Needs



Ladies & Gentlemen, good evening.

My name is Bob Forsythe and I am here with Dave Ferreria the President of the Reading Firefighters Association, Richard Abate President of the Reading Police Supervisory Association, Ian Nelson President of the Reading Police Patrol Officers Association and Joe Pagnotta President of the Reading Dispatchers Association. We are also joined by a small number of our members.

On behalf of the public safety professionals that serve our community I want to thank you for allowing me to read this statement.

We are here tonight to speak on a topic that is presently being undertaken by members of town government and influenced by other special interest groups. That issue being the American Rescue Plan Act. The federal law which was designed to infuse Federal Monies, not State or Local tax revenues, back into town as forms of relief and/or compensation due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

I would like all of you to think back approximately 19 months ago, mid-March of 2020. It was a time of uncertainty as cases were being detected in the greater Boston area. The "super spreader" Biogen event had just occurred and cases in Reading were rising. The schools closed, lockdowns began, non-essential employees were put on leave and many employees were sent home to work from home. Thank goodness for Zoom!

However, as Firefighters, as Police Officers, as 911 Dispatchers, we came to work every day and continued to provide a vital service, one which could not be Zoomed, at the onset of an unknown pandemic, with what protections we could put in place. We were issued masks, gowns, face shields and antiseptic wipes. Our vehicles and workspaces were constantly cleaned, however, at the same time we had no idea how the virus was spread. We had no idea if we were taking it home to our families. We were changing our uniforms in basements and garages. We were taking whatever steps we could to help us feel as safe as possible during these most trying times. We were masking/gloving/gowning up and we were answering calls. We were going into houses known to be COVID positive to transport sick patients to get the care they needed and deserved. In fact, to date we have answered the community's call over 6,300 times.

And we were contracting COVID. Multiple members of the police and fire unions, as well as their families, wives, children, parents... even a pregnant wife, came down with the illness as a result of a first responder working in mostly unknown bio-hazardous conditions.

Thankfully the government, on many levels, had protocols and guidelines to protect other workers while not punishing those that were infected. However, these cases continued to put additional stress on us and our families.

Again, while others had the opportunity to work from home, we did not.

One of the key aspects and intent of the legislation is for direct compensation to be paid to eligible first line responders, the exact individuals we four unions represent. Compensation for hours worked during the most trying times of this pandemic, from its onset to the rollout of the lifesaving vaccines.

Under the State and Local Assistance portion of the law, it allows for premium pay for Essential Workers, as designated by local officials. We, as defined by the statute, clearly fall under the umbrella of essential workers. It allows for back pay for hours worked, up to a \$13.00 hourly increase for the hours, with a maximum dollar cap, during the many months of the pandemic. We ask that this body first discuss this allocation of the funds and then make the correct decision to compensate the emergency service employees of Reading for their past actions.

We are asking that the Town of Reading recognizes us for those efforts and provides us with a reasonable relief for the outstanding job done by all Public safety personnel. If this was 19 months ago, I am confident that government leaders would happily vote to do so, using funds that place no further burden on the residents of Reading. 19 months ago, we did our jobs without hesitation, we did not ask for special pay, though it was common talk in the newspapers and social media. In the past 19 months, other legislation has been passed to address areas of relief or compensation for other parts of society, this is the first legislation that addresses the front-line public safety workers and gives the elected officials the opportunity to compensate their work. Today, we ask that we be compensated. Compensated by Federal funds that cost this town nothing, for the essential work we performed for over a year for this Town and its residents and visitors.

Thank you for your time. We are glad to answer any questions and I look forward to a response from the leaders of this community.

City/Town	Per First Responder
Amherst	30 min OT pay per shift
Arlington	\$6,000.00
Ashby	\$2,500.00
Brewster	Negotiating \$2,500
Brewster	\$2,000.00
Bridgewater	\$3,500.00
Brockton	\$3,000.00
Canton	Negotiating extra time off
Chicopee	\$5,000.00
Fall River	\$3,000.00
Falmouth	\$2,500.00
Fitchburg	Negotiating \$5,000
Gardner	Under Negotiation for \$5,000
Granby	Under Negotiation for \$5,000
Groton	2-1% payouts not ARPA
H.O.C	\$2,000.00
Hamden	\$1,000.00
Haverhill	\$500 with proof of vaccine
Lawrence	Negotiating \$5,000
Lowell	\$1,500.00
Lynn	Negotiating \$5,000
Mashpee	4 comp days
Methuen	\$1,500.00
Methuen	\$1,500.00
Milford	\$1,000.00
Oxford	\$4,000.00
Quincy	\$1,500.00
South Hampton	\$5,000.00
Springfield	\$5,000.00
Sturbridge	\$3,000.00
Sudbury	Negotiating extra time off
Sutton	\$1,000+ 1hr OT per 8 hr shift
Topsfield	\$1,500.00
Ware	\$7,500.00
Wayland	\$3,500.00
Worcester	\$5,000.00

Reading Historical Commission Projects

1) Digitization and reproduction of historic photographs and maps

Digitize 20 original photographs and maps of Reading History, many of which are currently on display in the Conference room and Select Board room in Town Hall. These items have been on display for many years in poor quality framing, which has led to deterioration from overexposure to light. The RHC would like to remove the items, have them digitized, and create high quality reproductions to be framed and displayed in Town Hall. The original items will be stored in the Town Archive and the digital images would be made available online, perhaps through the Public Library.

\$7,500

2) Temporary Archivist

Hire a temporary archivist to sort, catalog, and store documents, books, and photographs in the Town Archive collection for 250 hours at \$20/hr.

\$5,000

3) Collection Management Software

The current database we use is out of date and not usable online. Upgrade our current collection management database to more quickly access the Town Archive collections.

\$1,000

Maillet Sommes Morgan Conservation Lands

ARPA FUNDING REQUEST

ALEX ROZYCKI P.E. ; SENIOR CIVIL ENGINEER

ANDREW MACNICHOL ; SENIOR PLANNER

CHUCK TIRONE ; CONSERVATION ADMINISTRATOR



Project History

- Morgan Land donated to Town 1884, Sommes Land donated 1994
- Land given to Conservation Commission March 2021
- Resilient Mystic Collaborative and City of Cambridge \$350,000 MVP Action Grant 2019
 - Regional look at stormwater flooding at a watershed scale
 - Mitigate flooding from the 10 year storm event in 2070
 - 450 Sites analyzed
 - 25 Site visits
 - 6 Conceptual Designs
- 10% and eventually a 70% conceptual design created
- Current Grants and Earmarks outstanding:
 - MVP Application
 - Senator Warren , Senator Markey
 - Congressman Seth Moulton





21 communities. One watershed.

We partner on climate challenges no
single municipality can solve alone



FUNDING

Through Resilient Mystic
Collaborative

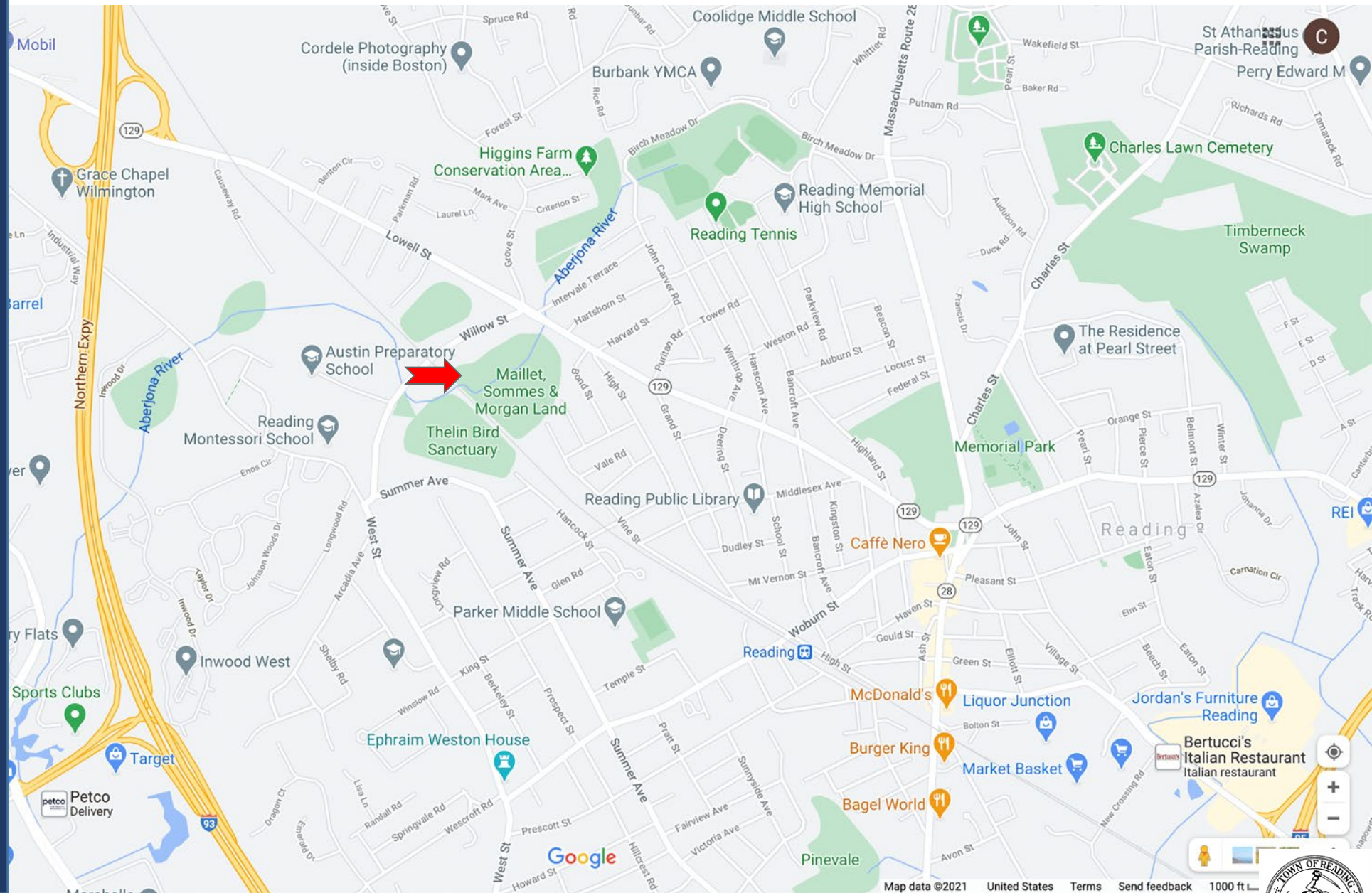


MVP
Municipal Vulnerability
Preparedness

Mystic River
WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

OPEN SPACE IMPROVEMENTS IN READING, MA

Maillet, Sommes, and Morgan Land

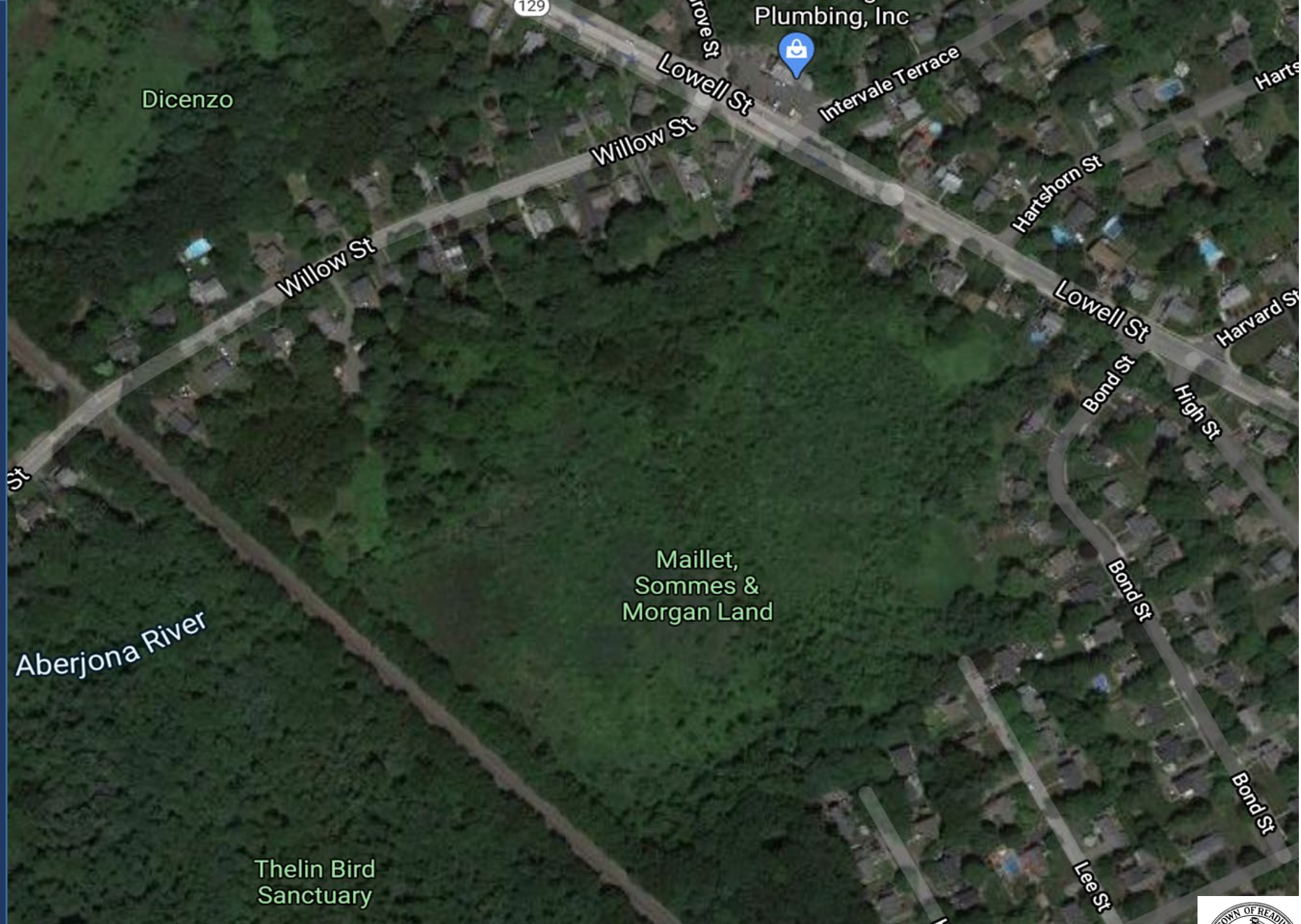


Mystic River
WATERSHED ASSOCIATION



OPEN SPACE IMPROVEMENTS IN READING, MA

Maillet, Sommes,
and Morgan Land



Mystic River
WATERSHED ASSOCIATION





Current Conditions

- Site floods under heavy rains
- Culverts at capacity upstream and downstream of Lowell St.
- Extensive work by Trails Committee has increased recreational opportunities and trail network
- No automobile access or parking
- Accessible through Hunt Street, Lowell Street, Willow Street



OPEN SPACE IMPROVEMENTS IN READING, MA

Maillet, Sommes, and Morgan Land



BIORETENTION

EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE



PERMEABLE WALKING PATH



CONSTRUCTED WETLAND

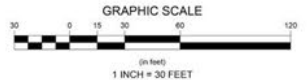


BOARDWALK



CONCEPTUAL STORMWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM

READING, MA
MARCH, 2021



90 Route 6A • Unit 1 • Sandwich, MA 02563
508-833-8820 • horsleywitten.com



Project Benefits

- In-land Flooding Mitigation (Local and Regional benefits)
- Invasive Species Removal and Management
- Improved Accessibility (Parking and ADA Trail Network)
- Open Space and Recreation Development
- Educational Opportunities
- Green space Improvements



Funding Requests


- **\$100,000 to finish Design Documents**
 - Internal funding \$25,000 FY22
 - Internal funding \$75,000 FY23
- **Earmark Requested (\$1.5M)**
 - 20% match requirement if awarded
- **MVP Application Requested (\$2.25M)**
 - 25% match requirement if awarded of \$440,000

Project: Mystic River Watershed
Location: Reading, MA

Submission: 75% Opinion of Probable Costs
Date: 6/15/2021

Horsley Witten Group
Sustainable Environmental Solutions
90 Route 6A • Unit 1 • Sandwich, MA 02563
508-833-6600 • horsleywitten.com

Estimator: JMP Checked By: JR



Item	Unit	Qty	Unit Price	Total Price
PAVING & CURBING				
12" Gravel Base Course	CY	230	\$ 55.00	\$ 12,650.00
3" Bituminous Base And Wearing Courses	TON	100	\$ 230.00	\$ 23,000.00
Tack Coat & Sweeping For Top Course of Paving	GAL	70	\$ 8.50	\$ 595.00
6" Gravel for Concrete Walks	CY	4	\$ 55.00	\$ 220.00
Concrete Sidewalk	SY	23	\$ 90.00	\$ 2,070.00
Asphalt Rolled Berm	LF	335	\$ 25.00	\$ 8,375.00
Pavement Markings	LS	1	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Subtotal Paving & Curbing				\$ 47,410.00
PATH SURFACES				
Stabilized Stone Dust Path	TON	320	\$ 150.00	\$ 48,000.00
Dense Graded Crushed Stone for Sub-base	TON	320	\$ 36.00	\$ 11,520.00
Triax Geogrid	SF	9,960	\$ 3.00	\$ 29,880.00
Mulch Path	CY	50	\$ 90.00	\$ 4,500.00
Boardwalk deck and Framing (10' wide) - low with piles	LF	115	\$ 625.00	\$ 71,875.00
Boardwalk deck and Framing (8' wide) - low with piles	LF	150	\$ 500.00	\$ 75,000.00
Subtotal Path Surfaces				\$ 165,775.00
SITE ELEMENTS				
Wood Fencing	LF	160	\$ 30.00	\$ 4,800.00
Information Kiosk	EA	1	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00
Rock Cairns	EA	4	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
Bench	EA	3	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 8,400.00
Stepping Stones	EA	32	\$ 25.00	\$ 800.00
Stone Boulder Retaining Embankment	LF	220	\$ 77.00	\$ 16,940.00
Boulder Retaining Wall	CY	21	\$ 900.00	\$ 18,900.00
Subtotal Site Elements				\$ 77,840.00
LANDSCAPE				
Plant Plugs and Trees, Wetland Replication, Loam & Seed	ALLOW	1	\$ 280,000.00	\$ 280,000.00
Subtotal Landscape				\$ 280,000.00
TOTAL GENERAL SITE - DIV 2				\$ 1,801,350.00
TOTAL ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COST				\$ 1,876,350.00
CONTINGENCY (25%)				\$ 469,087.50
TOTAL ESTIMATED COST				\$ 2,345,437.50
ADD FOR ALTERNATIVE OPTION (SIPHON)				\$ 60,000.00

Qualifications:
The following items are not included in the scope of work:

- Street Opening Permits / Bonds For Off Site Work
- Other Permits
- Police / Traffic details
- Temporary Water
- Contaminated Soil
- Sheeting/Earth Support
- Flowable Fill
- Archaeological/Historical Findings
- SWPPP Monitoring/Reporting





ROCK CAIRNS



KIOSK



PERMEABLE WALKING PATH



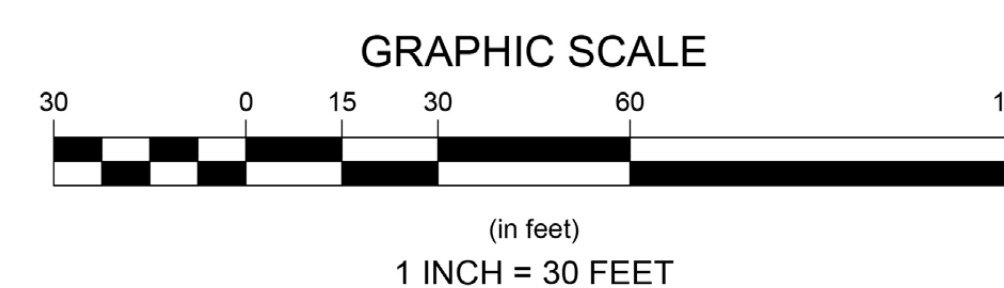
CONSTRUCTED WETLAND



BOARDWALK

CONCEPTUAL STORMWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM

READING, MA
APRIL, 2021



Horsley Witten Group
Sustainable Environmental Solutions

90 Route 6A • Unit 1 • Sandwich, MA 02563
508-833-6600 • horsleywitten.com





The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

Senator Jason M. Lewis
Fifth Middlesex District

State House, Room 511B
Boston, MA 02133

(617) 722-1206
Jason.Lewis@MASenate.gov

Chair
Joint Committee on Education

Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Reimagining
Massachusetts Post-Pandemic Resiliency

Assistant Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Congressman Seth Moulton
21 Front Street
Salem, MA 02190

22 April 2022

Dear Congressman Moulton,

We write to you in support of the Town of Reading’s request for a Community Projects grant to construct and restore wetlands in Town to provide significant new stormwater storage capacity. It is a top regional priority for managing stormwater flooding at the watershed level.

Reading has been a part of the Resilient Mystic Collaborative (RMC) since 2018. This partnership of twenty communities to collaboratively address climate risk mitigation focuses on finding solutions that prepare our communities for more heat, storms, and flooding while making our neighborhoods more livable and equitable. In 2019, the RMC and City of Cambridge were awarded an MVP Action Grant to prioritize opportunities for regional stormwater retention with an emphasis on green infrastructure and nature-based solutions.

Of the more than 450 potential sites evaluated during the 2019 MVP Action Grant, Reading has shown the greatest potential to meet the initial goals of optimizing and coordinating stormwater management throughout the watershed. Since then, the Town of Reading has continued this partnership with the RMC and Mystic River Watershed Association to develop a collaborative solution to this shared problem and currently has permits from the Conservation Commission and 75% design plans.

The Maillet Sommes and Morgan Conservation Area lies along the banks of the Aberjona River, the headwaters of the Mystic River. The parcel currently floods and overtops its bank during climate change-driven extreme rainfall events, submerging the existing trails and boardwalks and flooding upstream properties. The project will create and improve upon existing walking trails and open space for nearby low-income residents and other visitors to enjoy while providing much needed water storage capacity, water quality benefits and resorted natural habitats with the Mystic River Watershed, the most densely populated watershed in the state.

This earmark will allow the Town of Reading to begin construction next season and fund a large portion of the expected construction costs. Thank you for your help in securing this grant to move this project from planning to construction.

Yours sincerely,

Jason Lewis
State Senator
5th Middlesex

Richard Haggerty
State Representative
30th Middlesex

Brad Jones
State Representative
20th Middlesex

Congressman Seth Moulton
21 Front Street
Salem, MA 01970

Re: Community Projects Grant Request for increased Climate Resiliency by
Open Space Improvements in the Maillet, Sommes, and Morgan Land, Reading, MA

Dear Congressman:

On behalf of the Conservation Commission, I am writing in support of the Town of Reading's request for a Community Projects grant to construct and restore wetlands in the Town to provide significant new stormwater storage capacity. It is a top regional priority for managing stormwater flooding at the watershed level.

In 2018, the [Resilient Mystic Collaborative \(RMC\)](#) forged partnerships with Reading and more than two dozen neighboring cities, towns, and organizations to work collaboratively to protect our communities from climate-intensified flooding risks. The RMC focuses on regional projects and policies no one community can accomplish alone. The group looks for solutions to prepare communities for increased heat, storms, and flooding while making neighborhoods more livable and equitable. By 2019, the RMC and the City of Cambridge were awarded an MVP Action Grant to initiate planning to better regional stormwater retention, with an emphasis on green infrastructure and nature-based solutions.

Out of more than 450 potential sites evaluated during the 2019 MVP Action Grant, the Reading site was selected as having the greatest potential to meet the initial goals of optimizing and coordinating stormwater management at the watershed level. Since then, the Town of Reading has continued to partner with the RMC and the Mystic River Watershed Association, developing a collaborative solution to our shared problems; the current project, described further below, is currently at the 75% design stage and has permits from the Conservation Commission.

The target project includes increasing stormwater storage capacity and flooding resilience by improving the openspace of the Maillet, Sommes and Morgan Conservation Areas, which contain the upper reaches of the Aberjona River, the early headwaters of the Mystic River. The property currently floods and overtops its banks during increasingly frequent extreme rainfall events, which submerges existing trails and boardwalks, and floods upstream properties. The project will create new trails, improve upon existing walking trails, and design a more accessible open space for nearby low-income residents and other visitors to enjoy while providing much needed increased stormwater storage capacity, retention, and thereby improving water quality. In addition, the project proposes to restore natural habitats in this part of the Mystic River Watershed, the most densely populated watershed in the state.

Reading is currently applying for additional MVP funding to finalize the project design. This earmark will allow the Town to begin construction next season and fund a large portion of the expected construction

costs. We appreciate your efforts in helping to secure this grant, which will move a climate-essential project from planning to construction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Annika Scanlon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Annika" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Scanlon".

Annika Scanlon, PG

Annika_scanlon@yahoo.com

Chair, Conservation Commission

Town of Reading

16 Lowell Street

Reading, MA 01867

Congressman Seth Moulton
21 Front Street
Salem, MA 01970

April 26, 2022

Dear Congressman Moulton,

We write to you in support of the Town of Reading's request for a Community Projects grant to construct and restore wetlands in Town to provide significant new stormwater storage capacity. It is a top regional priority for managing stormwater flooding at the watershed level.

In 2018, we came together to form the [Resilient Mystic Collaborative \(RMC\)](#), a partnership among twenty neighboring communities working to protect our people and places from climate-intensified risks to people and places. We start with research to develop priority, cost-effective projects that make a difference on the ground. We focus on regional projects and policies no one community can do alone. We look for solutions that prepare our communities for more heat, storms, and flooding while making our neighborhoods more livable and equitable. By 2019 the RMC and City of Cambridge were awarded an MVP Action Grant to prioritize opportunities for regional stormwater retention with an emphasis on green infrastructure and nature based solutions.

Of the more than 450 potential sites evaluated during the 2019 MVP Action Grant, the Reading site has shown the greatest potential to meet the initial goals of optimizing and coordinating stormwater management at a watershed level. Since then, the Town of Reading has continued this partnership with the RMC and Mystic River Watershed Association to develop a collaborative solution to this shared problem and currently has permits from the Conservation Commission and 75% design plans.

The Maillet Sommes and Morgan Conservation Area lies along the banks of the Aberjona River, the very headwaters of the Mystic River. The parcel currently floods and overtops its bank during climate change-driven extreme rainfall events, submerging the existing trails and boardwalks and flooding upstream properties. The project will create and improve upon existing walking trails and open space for nearby low-income residents and other visitors to enjoy while providing much needed water storage capacity, water quality benefits and resorted natural habitats with the Mystic River Watershed, the most densely populated watershed in the state.

This earmark will allow the Town of Reading to begin construction next season and fund a large portion of the expected construction costs. Thank you for your help in securing this grant to move this project from planning to construction.

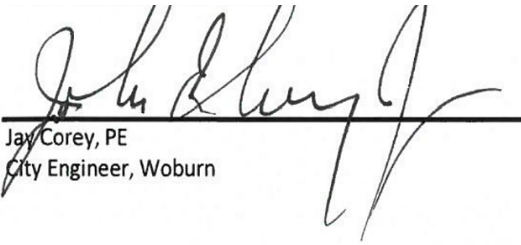
Sincerely,



Lucica Hiller
Stormwater Program Manager, City of Somerville



Maria Luise
Special Assistant to the Mayor, City of Malden



Jay Corey, PE
City Engineer, Woburn



David Morgan
Environmental Planner, Town of Arlington



Jay Coy
Deputy City Engineer, City of Melrose



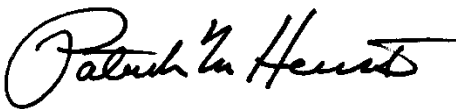
Beth Rudolph
Town Manager, Town of Winchester



Brett Gonsalves
Director of Public Works, City of Stoneham



Kathy Watkins
City Engineer, City of Cambridge



Patrick Herron
Executive Director, MyRWA



John Livsey
Town Engineer, Town of Lexington



Alicia Hunt
Dir of Planning, Dev, and Sust, City of Medford



Laurel Schwab
Senior Environmental Planner, City of Watertown



John Keeley
Conservation Administrator, City of Burlington



Tom Philbin
Conservation Agent, City of Everett



Town of Reading Meeting Minutes

2016-09-22 LAG

Board - Committee - Commission - Council:

Reading Arpa Advisory Committee

Date: 2022-04-12

Time: 7:00 PM

Building: Reading Town Hall

Location: Select Board Meeting Room

Address: 16 Lowell Street

Session: Open Session

Purpose: Open Session

Version: Draft

Attendees: **Members - Present:**

Chair Marianne Downing, Vice Chair Mark Dockser, Joe McDonagh, Tom Wise, Geoffrey Coram, Chris Haley, Shawn Brandt

Members - Not Present:

Andrew Grimes

Others Present:

Town Manager Fidel Maltez, Town Accountant Sharon Angstrom (remote), Assistant Town Manager Jean Delios (remote), Community Services Director Kevin Bohmiller (remote), Recreation Administrator Jenna Fiorente, Recreation Coordinator Shannon Fratto (remote), Stephen Crisafulli - Activitas (remote), Chuck Robinson, Karen Herrick, Angela Binda, John Douglass - Rotary, Tim Kelley, Bob Holmes, Emily Sisson, Michael Lee, Josh Graciela, Bruce Ayer, Richard Abate, William McDaniel

Minutes Respectfully Submitted By: Jacquelyn LaVerde

Topics of Discussion:

This meeting was held in-person at the Town Hall Select Board Meeting Room and remotely via Zoom.

Chair Marianne Downing called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and reviewed the evening's agenda.

Select Board Chair Karen Gately Herrick called the Select Board to order at 7:03 pm.

Public Comment:

Tim Kelley of the Rotary Club, joined by John Douglass, Club President, requested that the RAAC consider the Fall Street Faire as a recipient of some ARPA funds. Ms. Downing asked Mr. Kelley to submit a memo to the Committee, with more details and a dollar amount, for discussion at the next meeting on May 11th.

Rich Abate of the Reading Police, joined by other first responders, noted that the group read a joint statement in September at the Financial Forum, requesting to allocate some of the ARPA funds for first responders. He made the request again to the Select Board at their March 22nd meeting, and is again making the request to the RAAC for consideration. Ms. Downing noted that first responders are included in the discussion, and requested a memo with a percent or an amount to guide the Committee's discussion at a future meeting.

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION: Reading Recreation to address RAAC re: REC category uses for ARPA funding, including any time sensitive uses:

Recreation Administrator Jenna Fiorente thanked the Committee for considering Recreation for ARPA funding, and noted that a significant impact of COVID showed the need for people to get outside and have passive spaces to safely gather. After looking over documents, conducting surveys, and interviewing stakeholders, priorities included passive recreation, restrooms, concessions and lighting for safety. Ms. Fiorente and Stephen Crisafulli, Landscape Architect for Activitas, presented the conceptual design of the Birch Meadow Master Plan and highlighted projects that would benefit from ARPA funds:

- Central Spine with walkway, restrooms, and pavilion for an estimated \$700,000-\$900,000
- Lacrosse Wall for an estimated \$125,000-\$175,000
- Parking and wetland restoration of the former Imagination Station for an estimated \$550,000-\$650,000

The walkway will be ADA compliant. The parking lot will also feature electric vehicle parking.

The Committee discussed concerns regarding the loss of parking spaces at the Imagination Station parking lot, as parking is already an issue, especially on Saturdays when sport seasons are in full swing, and improvements to the area will make it an even more desirable destination. Ms. Fiorente stated that in the overall Birch Meadow Master Plan, additional parking will be added across from Castine Field. She stated that she would provide the Committee with the current parking statistics and the total spaces to be gained.

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION - Reading Elder Services to address RAAC re: possible Elder Services uses for ARPA funding:

Mr. Dockser stated that he asked the Council on Aging (COA) to come up with proposals last week, but the COA requested to defer their presentation to the next RAAC meeting. Community Services Director Kevin Bohmiller noted that the Council will send their requests to him for him to present at the next meeting.

CONTINUED GROUP WORKING LIST DISCUSSION - Go over master list of ARPA funding items and Draft set of classifications into buckets - to further sub classify and/or rank from 1 to 5 (1-lowest, 5-highest) based on:

- 1. Time sensitivity**
- 2. Is plan for use specific (e.g., ready to go or start, or purchase/spend) or general**
- 3. Cost - can we fund all or part**
- 4. Is this one hit wonder/quick win/low hanging fruit that can get done completely and quickly with a portion of ARPA?**
- 5. Does this spend save us money in future?**
- 6. Priorities within buckets**

Ms. Downing shared the "bucket list" of requests to date, with proposed dollar figures where available, which so far adds up to a little over \$15 million. She suggested the group try to apply some sort of ranking criteria. The Committee discussed the many different items listed at length, and suggested criteria considerations for ranking projects including: being "shovel-ready", unable to be done without ARPA funds, percent of residents that would benefit, costs, responsibility for implementing, additional hiring needed to complete the work, how long it will take to complete, easy to do, whether there are challenges such as supply chain delays, long-term budget savings, whether there are alternate sources of funding such as grants, pandemic impact, and whether sustainable when ARPA funds are gone.

CONTINUED SURVEY DISCUSSION:

- 1. Follow up costs from various providers, timing**
- 2. Decide on survey questions and type of survey - decide how much of working list to include**
- 3. Goal to have survey ready for release after 5/11 meeting.**

Mr. Dockser stated that he contacted Flash Vote, the company that conducted Sudbury's ARPA survey. The company can do a one-time polling survey, or a six-survey package. The

price for either is \$10,000. Ms. Downing noted that the Committee should be capable of coming up with something using the less costly Survey Monkey or Google Polls.

Mr. Maltez stated that he would work with Business Administrator Jayne Wellman to help craft a survey. The Committee agreed that the format should be available both electronically and hard paper copy for those without computer access. The Committee also agreed the content of the survey should be brief and include: basic demographics such as age, and whether a resident, business owner, or employee/visitor in Reading; a ranking of the proposed project "buckets"; the question of how the respondent would divide \$100 among proposed projects; and an open ended question such as what the respondent feels are Reading's strengths.

Discuss future agenda items:

Ms. Downing recapped future agenda topics including: Schools, Elder and Human Services, and asking Business Administrator Jayne Wellman to advise on the survey. The next meeting is scheduled for May 11th.

Mr. Brandt suggested having a vote for preliminary recommendations for time sensitive requests on the next agenda.

Review/Approve minutes from 3/29/2022 meeting:

On a motion by Mark Dockser, and seconded by Tom Wise, the Reading ARPA Advisory Committee voted 7-0-0 to approve the meeting minutes of March 29, 2022 as presented.

On a motion by Mark Dockser, and seconded by Chris Haley, the Reading ARPA Advisory Committee voted 7-0-0 to adjourn at 9:29 pm.

On a motion by Karen Gately Herrick, and seconded by Chris Haley, the Select Board voted 3-0-0 to adjourn at 9:30 pm.



Town of Reading Meeting Minutes

Board - Committee - Commission - Council:

Reading Arpa Advisory Committee

Date: 2022-05-11

Time: 7:00 PM

Building: Reading Public Library

Location: Community Room

Address: 64 Middlesex Avenue

Session: Open Session

Purpose: General Business

Version: Draft

Attendees: **Members - Present:**

Chair Marianne McLaughlin-Downing, Vice Chair Mark Dockser, Shawn Brandt, Geoffrey Coram, Andrew Grimes, Chris Haley, Tom Wise

Members - Not Present:

Jow McDonagh

Others Present:

School Superintendent Tom Milaschewski, School Finance Director Susan Botta, School Asst Superintendent of Learning & Teaching Sarah Hardy, Special Education Teach Kerry Mullen, Joshua Eaton Elementary School Principal Caitlin Shelburne, Town Manager Fidel Maltez, Town Accountant Sharon Angstrom (remote), Assistant Town Manager Jean Delios (remote), Director of Community Services Kevin Bohmiller (remote), Recreation Administrator Jenna Fiorente (remote), Business Administrator Jayne Wellman (remote)

School Committee Members: Sarah McLaughlin (remote), Carla Nazzaro, Chuck Robinson

Select Board Members: Carlo Bacci (remote), Karen Herrick, Jackie McCarthy (remote)

Minutes Respectfully Submitted By: Jacquelyn LaVerde

Topics of Discussion:

This meeting was held in person at the Reading Public Library Community Room and remotely via Zoom.

Chair Marianne Downing called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and reviewed the evening's agenda.

School Committee Chair Tom Wise called the School Committee to order at 7:03 pm. Roll call: Sarah McLaughlin (remote), Carla Nazzaro, Chuck Robinson, Shawn Brandt, Tom Wise.

Public Comment:

There was no comment from the public.

Select Board Chair Mark Dockser called the Select Board to order at 7:05 pm. Roll Call: Jackie McCarthy (remote), Karen Herrick, Chris Haley, Mark Dockser.

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION/VOTE - Reading Public Schools to present one-time sensitive asks for RPS funding out of ARPA for RAAC approval to send on to Reading Select Board for their 5/17 meeting:

School Superintendent Thomas Milaschewski was joined by Assistant Superintendent of Learning and Teaching Sarah Hardy, Special Education Teacher Kerry Mullen, Joshua Eaton Principal Caitlin Shelburne, and Director of Finance Susan Bottan. He explained how ARPA funds could help fund the School Department's most important priority and goal to ensure that all students are reading at grade level.

The pandemic raised the urgency of a better literacy curriculum. The current program requires a lot of research and planning time on the teachers. The district has received a \$200,000 accelerating literacy grant to help implement a new reading curriculum. The materials must be received by June 30th, 2022 in order to receive the grant funds. However, additional funds are needed to fully implement the program over the next four years. The School Department assembled a literacy research team to find a better program. Ms. Hardy explained that through the team's extensive work and research, American Reading Company (ARC) Core was the clear program that they believe will work the best based on ratings, Curate and EDReports, and speaking with other districts that have implemented the curriculum. She provided a detailed description of how the program works, how much it will cost, and the plan for the department to implement it.

Ms. Bottan reviewed the plan and cost for implementation. Year one will begin implementation for grades 3-5 and cost the district \$433,570 in the current Fiscal Year. Year two will see the continuation of implementation in grades 3-5, the start of K-2, and cost \$791,425 in FY23. Year three will continue implementation in 3-5 and K-2, and cost \$403,965 in FY 24. Year four sees the ongoing renewal in grades 3-5 and continuation in K-2, and cost \$371,040 in FY25. The total request of ARPA funds is for \$2 million to fully implement the program.

Mark Dockser asked why operating funds were not being used beyond year one and suggested that other funding opportunities, including operating budget and additional grants be explored to support the program instead of using ARPA funds. Dr. Milaschewski explained that they have not yet begun the process for the FY24 budget, could not confidently report to teachers and parents that they could fully implement the curriculum without the help of ARPA funds, and that this program aligns with the intended use of ARPA funds.

Dr. Milaschewski and School Department staff engaged in a lengthy discussion and answered many questions posed by the members of the RAAC, School Committee, and Select Board. Following discussion, a majority of those present expressed support for the full \$2 million request. Mark Dockser and Karen Herrick of the Select Board were hesitant to fulfill the full request.

Shawn Brandt moved that the RAAC recommend that the Select Board allocate \$2 million for Reading Public Schools to invest in a literacy curriculum. Motion seconded by Chris Haley. Following discussion, Mark Dockser moved to amend the recommended amount to \$433,570, seconded by Andrew Grimes. The Reading ARPA Advisory Committee voted 6-1 against the amendment, with only Mark Dockser in favor.

On the original motion to recommend \$2 million be allocated, the Reading ARPA Advisory Committee voted 6-1 in favor, with Mark Dockser opposed.

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION - Reading Elder Services to address RAAC re: possible Elder Services uses for ARPA funding:

Assistant Town Manager Jean Delios was joined by Community Services Director Kevin Bohmiller and Recreation Administrator Jenna Fiorente to present the ways ARPA funds can help the Senior population.

On a motion by Tom Wise, and seconded by Shawn Brandt, the School Committee voted 3-0 to adjourn at 9:15 pm.

Roll call vote: Chuck Robinson-Yes, Shawn Brandt-Yes, Tom Wise-Yes. Sarah McLaughlin and Carla Nazzaro had already left the meeting.

Ms. Delios provided an overview of the services the Elder and Human Services division offers to the community, particularly to the senior population who were significantly impacted by the isolation caused by the pandemic. A needs assessment, conducted by the UMass Gerontology Institute back in 2017 determined that the Pleasant Street Senior Center, a converted Fire Station, had outlived its useful life, and suggested that it was time to begin planning for a new facility. Staff was lost in 2019, then COVID hit in 2020, which stalled progress until funding was secured in 2021 and the Reading Center for Active Living Committee (ReCalc) was created. Through the efforts of ReCalc, a partnership was renewed with the UMass Gerontology Institute and a planning effort for a new senior center is underway. The next steps with UMass are to collect data and engage a consultant to perform a feasibility study.

Ideas suggested by the Council on Aging that could be addressed using ARPA funds in order of priority include: \$300,000 for a feasibility study for a new Senior Center, \$250,000 for supplemental programming using other facilities, \$150,000 to enhance transportation and trips, \$75,000 for outsourced mental health services, \$25,000 for virtual programming, \$50,000 for a Volunteer Coordinator (outsourced help, not a salaried position), and \$50,000 for accessibility improvements such as a microphone and other modifications for people who are hard of hearing. The total for all suggested requests is \$900,000.

Committee members expressed concern, as some of the requests seem like recurring expenses or salaries that would not be sustainable without continued funding, and were surprised that a first-floor bathroom was not included in the requests. Ms. Delios explained that the intent is to address the Town Meeting instructional motion to supplement programming, and to bridge the gap until more progress can be made on a new Senior Center. She also noted that to add a first-floor bathroom would be a significant expense in a building that is not intended to remain occupied.

The Committee requested a further breakdown of the cost of each request.

Chair Marianne Downing called for a five-minute recess at 10:13 pm.

On a motion by Karen Herrick, and seconded by Mark Dockser, the Select Board voted 3-0 to adjourn at 10:13 pm. Carlo Bacci and Jackie McCarthy had already left the meeting.

The RAAC reconvened at 10:19 pm.

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION VOTE -RAAC SURVEY

1. Review and discuss draft survey format and questions as prepared by Jayne Wellman, revise as necessary.

2. Decide on release date, survey deadline, where to distribute paper copies and where they will be collected.

3. Determine who will review results, who has access.

4. Vote to approve 1-3 above.:

On a motion by Tom Wise, and seconded by Shawn Brandt, the Reading ARPA Advisory Committee voted 6-0 to take the RAAC Survey agenda item out of order.

RAAC member Andrew Grimes left the in-person meeting and joined remotely for the remainder of the meeting.

Business Administrator presented the draft of the survey, based on RAAC's feedback, with the goal of prioritizing the community's interest for ARPA funding. The Committee reviewed the proposed questions including: the Town's characteristics of strengths, areas the Town

can improve, how a respondent would spend \$100 amongst suggested projects, a ranking of priority of a sample list of projects, and some basic demographic data. Due to the formatting limitations of Survey Monkey, the Committee agreed to forego the \$100 question, and came to a consensus on the details of the remaining questions.

Ms. Wellman will send the final draft to the Chair and Vice Chair for final approval before posting it early next week. The survey will be promoted on the Town website, the RAAC webpage, Town social media, SeeClickFix, and will be asked to be included in school newsletters. Paper copies will be available at various locations including Town Hall, Pleasant Street Center, and Library. It will also be promoted at Friends & Family Day on June 11th, and closed at the end of the day on June 12th, with results to be shared with the Committee at their added meeting on Wednesday, June 15th.

On a motion by Tom Wise, and seconded by Shawn Brandt, the Reading ARPA Advisory Committee voted 7-0 to approve the Chair and Vice Chair to finalize the survey based on the feedback provided by the Committee this evening.

Roll call vote: Andrew Grimes-Yes, Shawn Brandt-Yes, Tom Wise-Yes, Mark Dockser-Yes, Chris Haley-Yes, Geoffrey Coram-Yes, Marianne Downing-Yes.

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION/VOTE - Town manager to present water rate information relating to RAAC vote to allocate \$650,000 from ARPA to the water enterprise funds for RAAC discussion and vote to send on to Reading Select Board for 5/17 meeting:

Town Manager Fidel Maltez reviewed his previous request for \$2 million of ARPA funds to help subsidize FY23 water rates. Historically, reserves have been used to cushion water rates. However, recent water main breaks have taken a toll on reserves. Sewer reserves are still quite strong. Mr. Maltez proposed to use \$650,000 of water reserves and \$650,000 of ARPA funds to lower water rates, which will result in a 4.6% increase on water rates. He also proposed to use \$450,000 of sewer reserves to decrease sewer rates by 0.3%. This results in an increase of only 2.2% to the combined water and sewer rate.

Mr. Maltez suggested this helps cushion the rates one more year while the Town works with a consultant to transition to a tiered structured rate in FY24.

On a motion by Shawn Brandt, and seconded by Mark Dockser, the Reading ARPA Advisory Committee voted 7-0 to recommend to the Select Board to allocate \$650,000 of ARPA funds to the Water Enterprise Fund.

Roll call vote: Andrew Grimes-Yes, Shawn Brandt-Yes, Tom Wise-Yes, Mark Dockser-Yes, Chris Haley-Yes, Geoffrey Coram-Yes, Marianne Downing-Yes.

Discuss future agenda items:

Ms. Downing noted that at the next meeting on May 24th, the RAAC can discuss smaller items, take stock of the requests to date, and discuss the survey.

Ms. Downing asked if the RAAC should plan to attend the May 17th Select Board meeting. Members agreed that the RAAC should be posted to attend, and Mr. Dockser suggested having RAAC reports at the start of the Water & Sewer rate public hearing and the Schools' presentation.

Mr. Maltez requested to come back with more details on the Seniors' requests and get a vote.

Mr. Wise suggested sharing lists with Ms. Downing of the requests he has received. Ms. Downing agreed that the requests could be included in the next packet, and the next meeting would be a good opportunity to hear from those groups if they wish to speak to the Committee.

Review/Approve minutes from 4/12/2022 meeting:

Shawn Brandt moved to approve the meeting minutes of April 12, 2022. The motion was seconded by Tom Wise.

Mark Dockser stated that he noticed some errors, but had not yet reviewed the minutes.
On a motion by Mark Dockser and seconded by Marianne Downing, the Reading ARPA Advisory Committee voted 7-0 to table the approval of the minutes to the next meeting.

Roll call vote: Andrew Grimes-Yes, Shawn Brandt-Yes, Tom Wise-Yes, Mark Dockser-Yes, Chris Haley-Yes, Geoffrey Coram-Yes, Marianne Downing-Yes.

On a motion by Shawn Brandt, and seconded by Tom Wise, the Reading ARPA Advisory Committee voted 7-0 to adjourn at 11:30 pm.

Roll call vote: Andrew Grimes-Yes, Shawn Brandt-Yes, Tom Wise-Yes, Mark Dockser-Yes, Chris Haley-Yes, Geoffrey Coram-Yes, Marianne Downing-Yes.