



# Town of Reading Meeting Posting with Agenda

## Board - Committee - Commission - Council:

Reading Arpa Advisory Committee

Date: 2022-06-15

Time: 7:00 PM

Building: Reading Town Hall

Location: Select Board Meeting Room

Address: 16 Lowell Street

Agenda: Revised

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 in the Select Board Meeting Room at Town Hall and remotely via Zoom:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86478508988>

Meeting ID: 864 7850 8988

One tap mobile

+16465189805,,86478508988# US (New York)

+16465588656,,86478508988# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 646 518 9805 US (New York)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 864 7850 8988

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/u/kvM5HlcJ3>

## **AGENDA:**

Start and stop time are approximate and subject to change

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 7:00 pm   | Call to Order   |
| 7:00-7:05 | Public Comment  |
| 7:05-7:45 | PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION - ARPA SURVEY RESULTS - Jayne Wellman to present results of ARPA survey; discussion by RAAC on same |
| 7:45-8:00 | PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION - BM MASTER PLAN - Follow up on Birch Meadow Master Plan and requests for ARPA funding              |

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

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 8:00-8:20   | PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION - CONSERVATION - Chuck Tirone to present on ARPA funding request for conservation needs including Bare Meadow maintenance, surveys for land donations, Mattera bike rack, invasive species management  |
| 8:20-8:40   | PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION - TRAILS: Presentation on Trails Committee request for funding for shelving, boardwalk supplies  |
| 8:40-8:55   | PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION - READING GARDEN CLUB - Review Garden Club request for annual funding for each of 3 ARPA years to help reinstate various garden club activities, community education, etc.   |
| 8:55-9:15   | PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION - TOWN FOREST - Review Town Forest Committee request for funding to assist with tree and invasive plant removal  |
| 9:15-9:35   | PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION - Reading Teachers Association (RTA) Reading Paraeducators Union and the Reading Administrative Secretaries Union have a request to be included in any consideration for use of ARPA funds as hazard pay for town employees.                                       |
| 9:35-9:45   | DISCUSSION/VOTE - CONSERVATION MAILLET/SOMMES - follow up on Conservation/Town request at 5/24 meeting for time sensitive request of \$50k-\$100k towards planning mitigation projects for Maillet Sommes Morgan conservation lands (to help move project forward towards state MVP grant) |
| 9:45-10:15  | DISCUSSION - ARPA FUNDING REQUESTS - REVIEW ALL IN VIEW OF SURVEY RESULTS - Review table data on all ARPA requests received thus far, including this evening, review votes taken, compare requests with survey results, plan next steps  |
| 10:15-10:25 | DISCUSSION - SENIOR NEEDS FOLLOW UP - Discuss how/if ARPA can be used in more immediate way to help improve food quality for seniors, housing affordability, higher food costs; food truck feasibility   |
| 10:25-10:35 | DISCUSSION - FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS & JUN-AUG MEETING DATES   |
| 10:35-10:40 | DISCUSSION/VOTE - to approve meeting minutes of 5/24/2022 meeting  |
| 10:40 pm    | ADJOURN  |

\*Revised June 13, 2022 to add RTA agenda item. Originally posted June 9, 2022 10:53 am.

Dear Committee,

Thank you so much for hearing the Recreation presentation for the consideration of funding for Phase I of the Birch Meadow Master Plan. We believe the project was well received by the committee but we told you we would do some homework in regard to the parking area.

We would like to reiterate that not only is the parking lot an eye sore but first and foremost, comes with some safety issues that would be addressed.

The parking lot improvements would include lighting, a designated entrance and exit and lined parking spots all of which do currently not exist. The parking lot would also be ADA compliant.

In addition, there would be environmental improvements in storm water management, conservation preservation and electric car charging stations.

We have attached the picture of the existing conditions of the parking lot and also a picture of the parking lot conceptual design. It is hard to say exactly how many parking spots will be lost or gained according to our architect. However, once the lot is complete, there will be a total of 38 parking spaces. Upon the completion of the whole Master Plan, the total amount of spots gained will be 87.

This Master Plan has been revisited several times over the past 10+ years and the community has prioritized restrooms, walkways, and a pavilion as some of the biggest wants in each survey. These items are all in the first phase. In addition, we saw firsthand, the importance of having outdoor facilities for passive and active recreation during the pandemic for mental and physical health.

We know that starting the first phase of the project is turn-key and would benefit every single demographic in our town. I want to thank you again for the opportunity to present and hope that we are able to receive ARPA funding.

Best,

Jenna Fiorente







# High School Track & Field Renovations

Town of Reading | Reading, Massachusetts



# ARPA Funding Requests

Town of Reading Conservation Commission

May 2022

# Introduction

- Recreational use of Conservation land increased during the pandemic, Conservation Lands Aid in:
  - Making Reading more desirable and livable by providing local opportunities to enjoy nature, which has proven mental health benefits
  - Encouraging Reading residents to increase enjoyable exercise, with the attendant health benefits
  - Provide improvements in stormwater management, protecting Reading property
  - Protect and Enhance the Diversity of local wildlife-on Conservation Lands - a goal of the Reading Open Space initiatives

**Total Cost of the ARPA request \$31,500**



# Bare Meadow Stewardship and Maintenance Plan

- Improve opportunities for recreation on 112 Acres of Land
- 2.3 Miles of Trails managed by the Reading Trails Committee
- Aid in the smart allocation of future funding and effort
- Improve Habitat for Birds and Other Wildlife
- An offering of the Mass Audubon Ecological Extension Service includes:
  - invasive plant management plan
  - meadow maintenance plan
  - public use and trail assessment
  - recommended habitat assessments

Cost: \$10,000





# Survey for Land Donations on Sanborn Lane & Grove Street

- Required before accepting land donation
- Sanborn Lane: 1.9 Acres contiguous to Reading Town Forest Map 56 Lot 26
- Grove Street: 9.5 Acres Contiguous to Conservation Land and adds protection to the Aquifer protection district Map 37 Lot 2

**Cost: \$4,500 per survey**





# Mattera Cabin Bike Rack

- Free up parking spaces for other uses:
  - Community Garden Gardeners
  - Encourage Bike Riding
    - Reduces Traffic
    - Encourages Exercise

Cost: \$2,500





# Managing Invasive Species

- Fund effort to manage invasive species on Conservation Lands
  - Known areas such as Bare Meadow and Pinevale
  - Inspect and inventory other Conservation Lands
    - Kurchian Woods, Timberneck Swamp, Longwood, etc
  - Work with consultants on:
    - Sequencing
    - Methodology for removal
    - Approach to monitor post-removal to determine necessity and timing of repeat effort

Cost \$10,000



Phragmites



Japanese Knotweed

# Reading Trails Committee

## ARPA Funds Request

The last three years were unprecedented for the Reading Trails Committee due to the pandemic:

- Increased trail usage
- Safety challenges – how to work in close proximity given the transmissibility of COVID?
- The Committee continued its mission of developing and maintaining the trails of Reading, which connect residents to the many natural features the Town has to offer.

## Covid and Extreme Weather

Trail use increased dramatically beginning in 2020 and remains high up to this day. Increased use caused wear and tear on most of our trails and boardwalks. Also, extreme weather resulted in many fallen trees that needed to be removed. Thanks to the diligence of residents, our volunteers and committee members constant watchfulness, we have been able to respond so that the trails remained clear and safe for use.



# Statistics

- 2020 - Present: 69 volunteers have logged over 100 hours for trail maintenance
- Nearly all our trails have been adopted by volunteers
- We maintain 15 miles of trails throughout town
- We are responsible for maintaining over 23 boardwalks and bridges throughout town
- We are responsible for maintaining the kiosks at all trail heads
- We have an email list of 77 volunteers including Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and RMHS students









# Reading Trails Committee ARPA funds Request

- **Commercial grade shelving to store supplies at the Mattera Cabin Garage**

Global Industrial Shelving – Industrial & Commercial Use: \$1,700 per 4-foot section  
(3) @ \$5,100

- **Supplies to build or repair 200 linear feet of boardwalk**

- (100) 1x6x16-foot Composite decking = 200 4-foot boardwalk decking boards \$3,100

- (80) 2x10x12= 200 of boardwalk framing \$1,600

- (100) lbs. of 3-inch deck mate screws \$760.

- (100) lbs. of 2.5-inch deck mate screws \$760

- (160) Joist hangers 2x8 for 200 feet of boardwalk \$240

- #2 RYOBI Driver Batteries \$60.00

- **Total ARPA Request \$11,620**



## Reading Garden Club Proposal for ARPA Funding

From: Jean Maloney-Stewart (jmstewart0@verizon.net)


To: jmstewart0@verizon.net

Date: Thursday, June 2, 2022, 07:21 PM EDT

Dear Mr. Maltez and the ARPS Advisory Committee,

Attached please find an application for consideration for ARPA funding from the Reading Garden Club. Thank you so much for considering this proposal. Any amount you deem appropriate would be gratefully appreciated.

Sincerely,



Nancy Reid

President, Reading Garden Club

Email: nreid2416@gmail.com

Cell: 781-956-1775

Mary Ann Higgins

Vice President, Reading Garden Club

Email: mahiggins5@gmail.com

Cell: 617-347-8346

*see attached*

Reading Garden Club  
c/o Nancy Reid, President  
45 Linnea Lane  
Reading, MA 01867  
May 27, 2022

Dear Mr. Maltez and ARPA Advisory Committee,  
It has come to our attention that grants are available through ARPA funding to compensate losses that occurred when activities shut down because of COVID.

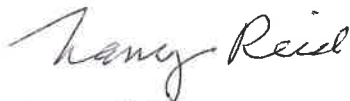
The Reading Garden Club, a 501 (C) (3) nonprofit organization, is requesting to be considered for a portion of this funding to make up for these losses. The approximately four thousand dollars (\$4,000) we earned each year through the Reading Garden Club Plant Sale in May went directly back to the Reading Community as per our by-laws. This included such activities as:

- planting and maintaining gardens at the Town Hall and War Memorial
- planting and maintaining the period gardens at Parker Tavern
- coordinating the 80 Adopt An Island sites around town
- decorating Parker Tavern for its biennial Holiday Open House
- conducting programs at the ARTIS Nursing Home
- donating scholarships to Reading High School students
- donating monies to the Reading Land Trust
- donating Library passes
- donating to the Reading Food Pantry and Mission of Deeds
- educating the public by cosponsoring horticultural lectures at the Reading Public Library
- educating the public about the importance of native plants

To support the goals of the Reading Garden Club in making the Town of Reading a better place, we are asking for \$12, 000 (\$4,000 for each of the three years) to fund the projects listed above. The funding will allow us to reinstate these programs as COVID restrictions are lifted.

Thank you so much for considering our proposal. Any amount you deem appropriate would be gratefully appreciated.

Sincerely,



Nancy Reid  
President, Reading Garden Club  
Email: [nreid2416@gmail.com](mailto:nreid2416@gmail.com)  
Cell: 781-956-1775

Mary Ann Higgins  
Vice President, Reading Garden Club  
Email: [mahiggins5@gmail.com](mailto:mahiggins5@gmail.com)  
Cell: 617-347-8346



# ARPA Request for Dead Tree and Invasive Plant Removal

Reading Town Forest Committee



Red pine trees in the Town Forest are dying due to climate change and invasive plants are widespread



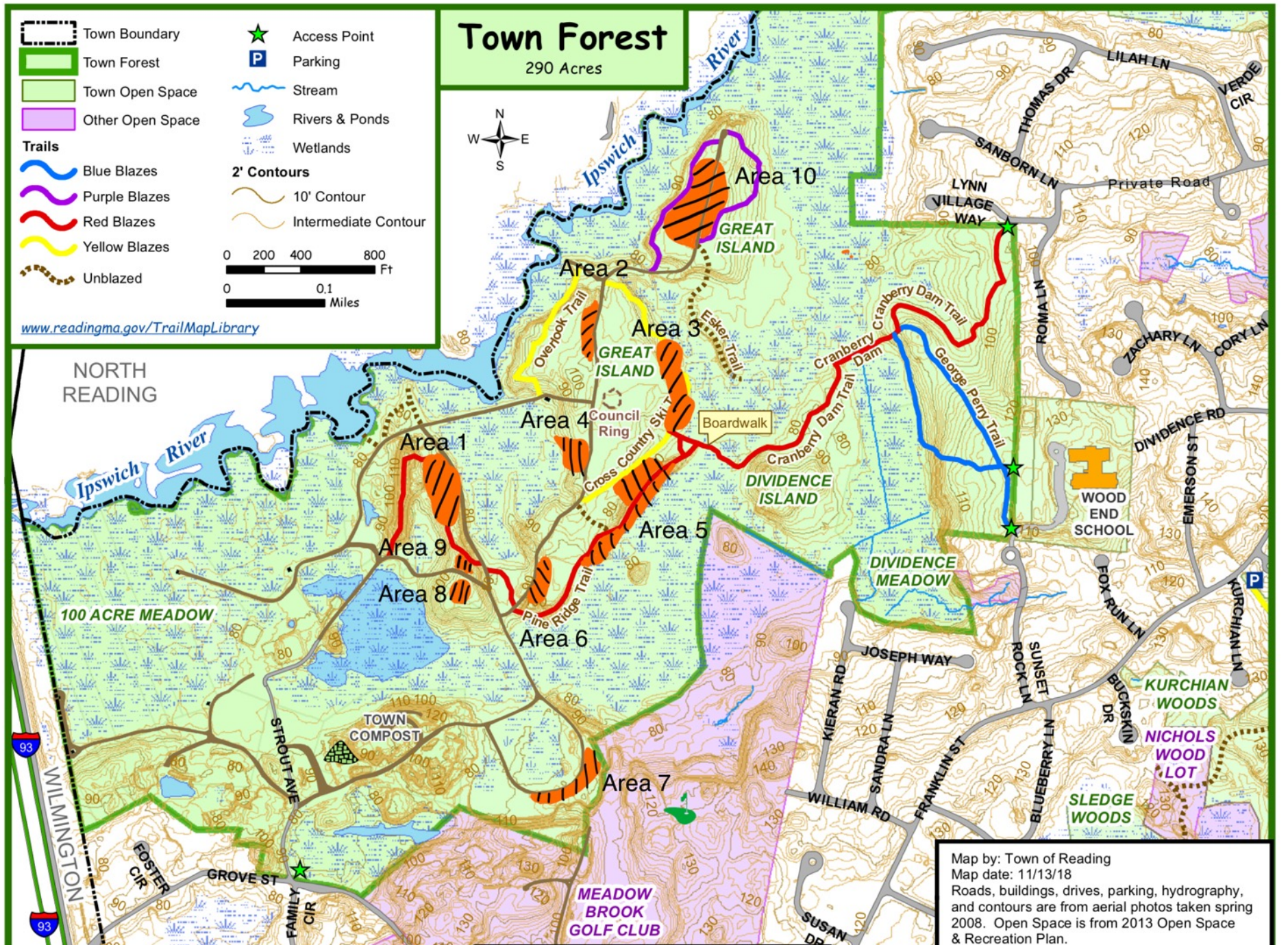


# The Problem - Red Pine Trees:

- ▶ Red pine trees were planted starting in the 1930s as a resource to be periodically harvested
- ▶ Red pines are suited for more northern latitudes
- ▶ Climate change has stressed the red pines
- ▶ This stress makes the red pines vulnerable to fungus and insects such as pine scale
- ▶ Need to remove the dead trees before they fall and potentially injure users of the Town Forest or catch on fire







Red Pine Areas

Map by: Town of Reading  
 Map date: 11/13/18  
 Roads, buildings, drives, parking, hydrography,  
 and contours are from aerial photos taken spring  
 2008. Open Space is from 2013 Open Space  
 & Recreation Plan.



# The Problem - Invasive Plants:

- ▶ Invasive plants such as buckthorn, Japanese knotweed, tree of heaven and black swallow-wort have become firmly established in the Town Forest
- ▶ The adjacent Compost Area is a reservoir of invasives that will spread into the Town Forest
- ▶ If not controlled now, native plants will be crowded out and the Town Forest will be a tangle of invasive plants



Buckthorn



Tree of Heaven



Black Swallow-wort



Japanese Knotweed



## Work to Date:

- ▶ Phase 1 removed dead trees on 4.5 acres in January 2020 at a cost of \$28,400
- ▶ Phase 2 removed 470 dead trees from another 4.5 acres at a cost of \$22,900
- ▶ Projects were bid and managed by Reading DPW
- ▶ Limited invasive plant removal by volunteers including Scouts and at events sponsored by the Town Forest Committee





# Next Phases

- ▶ If funding is approved, Phase 3 will continue the removal of the dead red pines in January 2023 on 4 to 6 acres of the Town Forest
- ▶ Phase 3 areas are more difficult to access and will have a higher cost
- ▶ Phase 4 should follow in January 2024
- ▶ Forest Cutting Plans must be prepared by a licensed forester for approval by the State Forester and Reading Conservation Commission
- ▶ Need professional assistance with invasive plant control as volunteers are not equipped for the magnitude of the invasion
- ▶ Total estimated cost is in the range of \$150,000 to \$200,000.

# ARPA Request

- ▶ The COVID pandemic substantially increased the use of the Town Forest as residents sought a refuge in nature
- ▶ Removal of the dead red pine trees is important to prevent branches and trees from falling on people
- ▶ Reading Fire Department supports the removal of the dead trees as they are a fire hazard
- ▶ Every day that passes without action on invasive plant control reduces our ability to preserve the natural forest for the future
- ▶ The Reading Town Forest Committee requests \$150,000 to \$200,000 to carry out this work



HEADQUARTERS  
**READING FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
READING, MASSACHUSETTS 01867

Chief Gregory J. Burns  
Reading Fire Department  
757 Main Street  
Reading MA 01867

Tel: 781.944.3132  
Fax: 781.942.9114  
[www.readingma.gov](http://www.readingma.gov)

William Sullivan  
Reading Town Forest Committee  
Town of Reading  
16 Lowell Street  
Reading, MA. 01667

Sir,

On July 14, 2021, I met with Mike Hannaford at the Town Forest and viewed sites that contained deceased red pines. These large areas contained trees that had already fallen or were in decay posing a significant fire hazard. The added fuel caused by these decaying and downed trees will accelerate a fire and potentially overwhelm our resources. Additionally, many of these areas encroached existing trails, increasing the safety risk to anyone using the trails.

Mike explained that there is a plan to do remedial removal of these red pines in various areas within the Town Forest starting during the upcoming winter months. For the reasons stated above, the Fire Department would be fully in favor of this work, to not only reduce the fire hazard but the potential safety hazard to the many residents that enjoy the Town Forest.

Thank you,

Paul D. Jackson  
Assistant Fire Chief  
Reading Fire Department  
757 Main Street  
Reading, MA 01867

Cc: Jane Kinsella, Public Works Director  
Mike Hannaford, Parks, Forestry, Cemetery Supervisor  
William Sullivan, Chair, Town Forest Committee  
Chief Gregory J. Burns

*"We're Your Friends for Life"*

# Thank you for your consideration

## ▶ Reading Town Forest Committee

- ▶ Bill Sullivan, Chair
- ▶ Susan Bowe
- ▶ Nancy Docktor
- ▶ Tom Gardner
- ▶ Kurt Habel
- ▶ Jeff Lamson
- ▶ Tim Kirwan



June 12, 2022

Hello members of the RAAC,

We are writing on behalf of the members of the education professionals that work in our Reading Public Schools. We understand that other unions in Reading have requested that the town make use of unspent APRA funds to compensate their employees for working throughout the pandemic, and formally request that you include the members of the Reading Paraeducators Union, Reading Teachers Association, and the Reading Administrative Secretaries Union in any use of ARPA funds as hazard pay for town employees.

Reading educators and administrative support staff have been working hard to ensure the students of this town continue to learn, grow, and thrive under extraordinarily difficult circumstances. From the beginning of the 2020 school year, many teachers, paraprofessionals, and secretarial staff were in the RPS buildings every day, working directly with students and other staff. For more than two years, every staff member has been going above and beyond to ensure students were able to continue their educational progress and recover lost skills.

Many staff members worked directly with our youngest students and/or students with special needs, whose age and other health factors made it impossible for them to wear masks or receive the Covid vaccine when it became available.

- School nurses have moved mountains to keep kids and staff safe during the pandemic, running weekly testing, spending hours in the evening doing contact tracing, and setting up vaccination clinics in the town.
- Paraprofessionals have been in our schools every day since the buildings reopened in the fall of 2020. Paraprofessionals were responsible for juggling multiple groups of students from multiple teams, grades and programs. They were asked to provide classroom coverage to make the district's hybrid education plan work, meaning that their responsibilities included being in charge of a satellite classroom while also attending to their assigned students. Additionally, paraprofessionals were constantly exposed to many different students, working closely with young children in a face-to-face environment.
- Secretarial staff were in their buildings every day, working closely with administration to implement safety protocols, working with nurses to facilitate pool testing, helping with contact tracing and in many cases assisting sick children on the way to the nurses' office. Secretaries were in the buildings full time preparing for the return of staff and students. Our administrative support and secretarial staff not only juggled the increased logistical workload of the pandemic, but they also somehow managed to make sure every student felt welcome and safe in their buildings, even if they couldn't see their smiles behind their masks.
- RPS teachers worked directly in classrooms with our students, helping them recover the academic and social skills that the pandemic jeopardized. They crafted lesson plans that delivered engaging instruction to students, half of whom were at home, with the other half directly in front of them. Teachers learned how to implement technology on the fly, and created classroom environments where students felt safe, respected, loved, and valued.
- Guidance counselors, social workers, special education teachers, and intervention specialists worked one-on-one in person with students who receive special services or who were in crisis.

This year, as the pandemic finally eased and we could return to something more closely resembling normal, teachers, paraprofessionals and administrative support staff redoubled their efforts on the important task of

trying to help students who were not always doing as well as we would have hoped - emotionally, academically, socially, or behaviorally. To say that the last two years have been a challenge for us all is an incredible understatement.

We understand that funds are limited, and we are aware of the level of funding other bargaining units in the town have requested. Bearing in mind that you will have to balance many worthwhile interests, we are asking to be considered at a level comparable with what other town employees have requested. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter in person and make a presentation to the committee at an upcoming meeting.

We hope that when deciding how to allocate the remaining ARPA funds, you will consider the sacrifices and hard work of the teachers, paraprofessionals, and school support staff who worked throughout the pandemic, and consider this an investment in retaining the talent that works with the town's most valuable resource - Reading's children.

Sincerely,

Jessica Bailey, Reading Teachers Association President  
Diane Finigan, Reading Administrative Secretaries Union President  
Kathy West, Reading Paraprofessionals Union President



| Requester  | Amount requested   | Purpose/use/Details   | Date Req or discussed at RAAC | Date voted (RAAC, SB)             | ARPA Allocated as of 6/14/2022 | Which survey q2 and q3 does this map to (if any)  | Comments   |
|--|--------------------|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Town Side</b>                                 |                    |   |                               |                                   |                                |   |  |
| Public Health                                    | \$250,000          | Covid supplies and test kits  | n/a                           | 2/1/2022 - SB vote                | 250,000                        | Physical safety and security  | This was a SB vote for allocation was done pre-RAAC  |
| Town - Water and Sewer other than water reserves | \$1,350,000        | Various water capital projects  | 3/29/2022 and 5/11/2022       | n/a                               | n/a                            | local infrastructure; town buildings; water, sewer, flood control infrastructure                | This is part of a 2 mil ask (650k for water rates - time sensitive)  |
| Town - water rate supplement                     | \$650,000          | Time sensitive ask - in time for water rate vote - Supplement water funds to lower water rates  | 5/11/2022                     | 5/11/2022 - RAAC ; 5/31/2022 - SB | 650,000                        | town buildings and infrastructure (water)   | 5-11-22 - voted 7-0 in favor; 5/31/22 - SB voted 5-0 in favor. This is part of a 2 mil ask including one time spend to mitigate what would have been high water rates  |
| Town - Recreation dept and Recreation committee  | \$1,725,000        | Central spine with walkway - 900k; lacrosse wall: 125k-175k; parking and wetlands restoration on imagination station lot - 550k-650k  | 4/12/2022                     | n/a                               | n/a                            | local recreation; environmental conservation; local infrastructure; improve town parks and land | Revised request to be discussed on 6/15; Given the inflation I put the highest totals as request   |
| Town-Elder services                              | \$900,000          | 300k toward senior center feasibility study; 250k supplemental space; 150k more trips; 75k mental health; 25k virtual prog; 50k vol. coord; 50k accessibility improvements. | 5/11/2022 and 5/24/2022       | 5/24/2022 - RAAC; 5/31/2022 - SB  | 900,000                        | Sr services/sr center; augment sr programming, etc  | 5/24/22-RAAC voted 6-1 in favor; 5/31/22, SB voted 5-0 in favor. Goal is to bridge for few years to support immediate senior needs until/if new permanent senior center solution in place; provide extra services. |
| Town Conservation Dept - Maillet Sommes Land     | \$100,000          | Flood mitigation, restore/improve open space, money to supplement a federal grant   | 5/24/2022                     | tentative 6/15/2022               | n/a                            | local recreation; environmental conservation; water, sewer & flood control                      | They are asking for \$100k but would be OK with \$50k in July and \$50k in September; having money now will show state grant that Reading is proactive and interested  |
| Town - various human services initiatives        |                    | Rental assistance, employment recognition, small business assistance, domestic violence awareness, nutritional assistance   | 3/29/2022                     | n/a                               | n/a                            | range and cost of housing; misc community priorities  | Sharon Angstrom and Victor Santiello proposed - no amount was given.   |
| <b>Totals</b>                                    | <b>\$4,975,000</b> |   |                               |                                   | <b>1,800,000</b>               |   |  |

| Requester                     | Amount requested   | Purpose/use/Details   | Date Req or discussed at RAAC | Date voted (RAAC, SB)                   | ARPA Allocated as of 6/14/2022 | Which survey q2 and q3 does this map to (if any)                                   | Comments   |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|---|-------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Schools</b>                |                    |   |                               |   |                                |  |  |
| Reading Public Schools        | \$2,000,000        | Arc Core Curriculum funding for years 1-4 of new K-5 literacy curriculum.   | 5/11/2022                     | 5/11/2022;<br>Select board<br>5/17/2022 | 2,000,000                      | Quality of Schools;<br>Expanded oppty's<br>etc                                     | Schools have indicated that this will be their only request. Was time sensitive to ensure state 200k grant conditions could be met |
| <b>Totals</b>                 | <b>\$2,000,000</b> |   |                               |   | 2,000,000                      |  |  |
| <b>Town boards</b>            |                    |   |                               |   |                                |  |  |
| Reading historical commission | \$13,500           | Digitizing photos and maps - 7500;<br>temp archivist - \$5000; collection software - 1000   | 5/24/2022                     | n/a                                     | n/a                            | historical preservation; misc non-infrastructure town side                         | one time spends  |
| Conservation Commission       | \$31,500           | Birch Meadow stewardship/maint - 10k; land donations survey - 4.5k per survey; Mattera bike rack - 2.5k; manage invasive species: 10k | 6/15/2022                     | n/a                                     | n/a                            | environmental conservation; local recreation; improve town owned conservation land |  |
| Reading Trails Committee      | \$11,620           | Mattera shelving; supplies for boardwalk repair   | 6/15/2022                     | n/a                                     | n/a                            | environmental conservation; local recreation; improve town owned conservation land |  |
| Town Forest Committee         | \$200,000          | Dead Tree and Invasive Plant Removal  | 6/15/2022                     | n/a                                     | n/a                            | Environmental conservation; improve town-owned land                                | The request was 150k-200k; assumed higher amount due to inflation  |
| <b>Totals Town Boards</b>     | <b>\$256,620</b>   |   |                               |   | 0                              |  |  |





| Requester   | Amount requested | Purpose/use/Details  | Date Req or discussed at RAAC      | Date voted (RAAC, SB) | ARPA Allocated as of 6/14/2022 | Which survey q2 and q3 does this map to (if any)  | Comments  |
|---|------------------|--|------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Private/Non town/schools</b>                             |                  |  |                                    |                       |                                |   |   |
| Reading/North Reading Chamber of Commerce - initial request | \$55,000         | Programming.education: 5k; business support/memberships 12.5k; shop the readings website 20k; professional videos 10k; social media 7.5k | 4/1/2022 - rec'd; 4/12/2022 packet | n/a                   |                                | Improve commercial dev oppty's; Local Business and Jobs; Misc community priorities and private/non-town | Initial request - on 4/1/2022 was 105k, this was revised to 55k on 4/20/22. Original request related to both Reading AND North Reading - updated request rec'd on _____ |
| Reading Rotary  | \$75,000         | \$25k per year to cover DPW, police, and other costs of Reading Fall Street Faire  | 5/1/2022; discussed 5/11           | n/a                   |                                | Misc community priorities and private/non-town  | Note that this money effectively is paid pack to the town   |
| Reading Garden Club   | \$12,000         | \$4000 per year to match value of plant sale which could not be held in 2020 or 2021   | 6/15/2022                          | n/a                   | n/a                            | local recreation/culture; misc. community priorities (non-town)   | Their request indicates it would be \$4000 per year for 3 years; they indicate money goes back to community   |
| <b>Total Private</b>  | <b>\$142,000</b> |  |                                    |                       |                                |   |   |











# Town of Reading Meeting Minutes

## Board - Committee - Commission - Council:

Reading Arpa Advisory Committee

Date: 2022-05-24

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 Downing, Vice Chair Mark Dockser, Shawn Brandt, Geoffrey Coram, Andrew Grimes, Chris Haley, Joe McDonagh

### **Members - Not Present:**

Thomas Wise

### **Others Present:**

Town Manager Fidel Maltez, Assistant Town Manager Jean Delios, Elder & Human Services Administrator Amy O'Brien, Community Services Director Kevin Bohmiller, Recreation Administrator Jenna Fiorente, Town Accountant Sharon Angstrom (remote), Planner Andrew MacNichol (remote), Conservation Administrator Chuck Tirone (remote), Senior Civil Engineer Alex Rozycki (remote)

Select Board Members: Jackie McCarthy (remote), Karen Gately Herrick  
Public: Nora Bucko (remote), Rosemarie DeBenedetto, Marilyn Shapleigh, Chris Jones, Richard Abate, Erica McNamara, John Parsons, Bob Holmes, Nancy Ziemiak, John Sasso, Scott Craven, Stephen Bohannon, Maureen Griffin-Stone, Maria Morais, Michael Fiorentino

**Minutes Respectfully Submitted By:** Jacquelyn LaVerde

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### **Topics of Discussion:**

This meeting was held in-person in the Community Room of the Library, and remotely via Zoom.

Chair Marianne Downing called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and provided an overview of the evening's agenda.

Select Board Chair Mark Dockser called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

### **Public Comment:**

There was no comment from the public.

Town Manager Fidel Maltez shared that the RAAC survey had over 300 responses on its first day and now has over 500 responses.

**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:**

Assistant Town Manager Jean Delios was joined by (retiring) Community Services Director Kevin Bohmiller, his successor Jenna Fiorente, Elder and Human Services Administrator Amy O'Brien, members of the Council on Aging, and patrons of the senior center. She shared details of the growing senior population, and the history of the Pleasant Street Center. A needs assessment conducted by the UMASS Gerontology Institute in 2017 determined that the Pleasant Street Center was too small, there was not enough staff, and it was time to plan what to do. Some improvements were made to the Center, but then COVID hit and hindered efforts. The Center has been reopening slowly to ensure that it is safe, but staff has taken the opportunity to start planning for a new Center. The Reading Center for Active Living Committee (ReCalc) was appointed by the Select Board in 2021 and has been hard at work since January 2022, once again in partnership with the UMASS Gerontology institute, conducting community outreach. The next steps in the process are to conduct a feasibility study for a new facility, and a community survey in the fall. In the meantime, seniors have spoken up about what they want in the short-term including: transportation, entertainment, trips, and more programming.

Elder Services is requesting \$900,000 from ARPA funds, which over the next 24 months will provide: \$300,000 for a feasibility study, \$250,000 for supplemental programming (space rentals, instructors, staff support, and food), \$150,000 for senior bus trips, \$75,000 for wellness programs, \$25,000 for contracted virtual programming, \$50,000 for a contracted volunteer coordinator, and \$50,000 for accessibility improvements to the Pleasant Street Center (interpreters and audio systems).

Chris Haley reiterated his suggestion to incorporate the purchase of a food truck, then contract out the meal prep to help supplement the meals provided at the Senior Center, and suggested increasing the requested amount to \$1 million. Ms. Downing stated that she likes the idea of providing more and better food for the seniors, but would like Town Counsel to weigh in on the food truck idea.

Committee members were mostly in favor of the Elder and Human Services request, but expressed concern about the ability to maintain these services beyond ARPA funding. Ms. Delios explained that the idea is to use this as a pilot program to produce results, then ask Town Meeting for a full-time coordinator with supporting data to prove that more can be done with more resources. Dr. Coram expressed concern with voting to recommend allocating more funds before reviewing and considering the results of the community survey.

Rosemarie DeBenedetto of Haystack Road, patron of the senior center, noted that current seniors may not live long enough to see a new center, and that seniors want to be active and together now.

John Sasso of Richards Road, member of ReCalc, noted that there is an urgency to provide programs for seniors and that Town Meeting voted overwhelmingly in favor of supporting the short-term needs of the seniors.

**On a motion by Shawn Brandt, and seconded by Mark Dockser, the Reading ARPA Advisory Committee voted 6-0-1 to recommend that the Select Board allocate \$900,000 of ARPA funds to support Elder Services, with Geoffrey Coram abstaining, as he would like to review the results of the survey.**

**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:**

Lt. Det. Rich Abate, reviewed the statement prepared by the first responder units, which was originally presented at the Financial Forum back in the fall. As requested by the RAAC at a previous meeting, Lt. Abate presented comparisons of 28 other Massachusetts communities that have allotted a portion of their ARPA funds to first responders. He

formally requested \$750,000, or 10% of the Town's ARPA grant, which would provide approximately \$7,281 per firefighter, patrol officer and dispatcher who worked during the pandemic.

Committee members expressed their support for the first responders, but noted that there were other groups who were also essential and working in-person during the pandemic. They want to be careful not to exclude them.

**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:**

Mike Fiorentino, the staff representative for AFSCME Council 93, was present on behalf of the approximately 125 staff members across seven AFSCME units in Reading. He noted that a vast majority of staff in other bargaining units, such as school cafeteria workers, custodial, and DPW, also worked in-person during the pandemic. He stated that he did not have figures to present at this time, but wanted to open up the dialog.

Steve Bohannon, Electrician in the Facilities Department, noted that there were a few days early in the pandemic they were sent home, but it was quickly realized that "all hands on deck" were needed in-person in Facilities.

The Committee recessed briefly at 8:52 pm and reconvened at 8:57 pm.

**PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION - READING HISTORICAL COMMISSION: Samantha Couture/Town to present ARPA funding request for certain Historical Commission needs, including digitization, temporary archivist, software:**

Samantha Couture, Chair of the Reading Historical Commission, presented the Commission's mission and an overview of its collection.

Current issues the Commission is facing are the lack of climate control with occasional water leakage in the archive, insufficient space and no room for growth, inadequate staffing, and an inability for Commission members to access anything from home. Many items have been acquired over the past few years with no place to store them, and no one to catalog them. A preservation needs assessment was conducted in 2019 which provided recommendations for collection management, increased staff time, and monitoring the storage environment.

The Commission is requesting \$13,500 of ARPA funds, which includes: \$7,500 for the digitization of photos and maps, and to reprint and frame high quality reproductions; \$5,000 for a temporary archivist; and \$1,000 for collection management software.

Ms. Downing asked how the software was different than the software utilized by the Town Clerk, and whether the Town Archive could use it. Ms. Couture stated she would speak with Town Clerk Laura Gemme about it.

**PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION - CONSERVATION: Conservation/Town to present ARPA funding request for certain needs relating to Maillet Sommes Morgan conservation lands:**

Senior Civil Engineer Alex Rozycki was present with Senior Planner Andrew MacNichol and Conservation Administrator Chuck Tirone to discuss a project on the Maillet Conservation land. The project is designed to treat regional flooding throughout the Mystic River watershed for the 10-year storm event in 2070. Over 450 sites were evaluated in the entire watershed, with this site in Reading selected as one of six conceptual designs. For funding, there is a current Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) grant, and earmarks requested from Senators Warren and Markey, and Congressman Seth Moulton. Project benefits include flooding mitigation locally and regionally, invasive species removal, improved accessibility, educational opportunities, and green space improvements. Total funding requests are \$2.5 million to \$3 million. The request for ARPA funds is \$100,000 to finish the design documents to get the project shovel ready and make it a more attractive recipient for earmarks.



Committee members discussed the time sensitive request for the funds and the other funding sources. Mr. Rozycki stated that he will bring a scope of work to the next meeting.

**Discuss future agenda items:**

The Committee discussed items to discuss at future meetings including: a follow up on the Conservation project, follow up from the Birch Meadow Master Plan, survey results, vote on the Conservation project, Trails Committee, food truck possibility, and affordable housing.

**Review/Approve minutes from 4/12/2022 meeting and 5/11/2022 meeting:**

**On a motion by Shawn Brandt, and seconded by Mark Dockser, the Reading ARPA Advisory Committee voted 7-0 to approve the meeting minutes of April 12, 2022 as presented.**

**On a motion by Shawn Brandt, and seconded by Mark Dockser, the Reading ARPA Advisory Committee voted 6-0-1 to approve the meeting minutes of May 11, 2022 as amended on the floor, with Mr. McDonagh abstaining, as he was not present at that meeting.**

The Select Board did not adjourn, as Jackie McCarthy and Karen Herrick had already left the meeting.

**On a motion by Shawn Brandt, and seconded by Andrew Grimes, the Reading ARPA Advisory Committee voted 7-0 to adjourn at 10:06 pm.**