Purchase New Haven ARPA Funding Suggestions

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Suggestion | Source | Estimated Cost | Comment |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 1 | land for new fire station/emergency shelter | Selectboard members |  |  |
| 2 | Digitize Town records | Town Clerk | $50,000 |  |
| 3 | Conduct a study on an affordable housing project for our town | 3/21/22 email from a resident |  | “The housing affordability and availability crisis is completely out of hand. I've wondered if the only solution may come from local, grassroots-based efforts to buy land and create small community developments: a tract of land with some common open space for gardens, yards, a septic system, well, and electric installed, and then 8 or 10 tiny houses. For young first time buyers. Like a small mobile home park that is occupant-owned/HOA.” |
| 4 | Purchase the Junction empty lot; use Brownfields funds to clean it up. Then use ARPA funds for affordable housing with solar and EV chargers | Energy Committee |  | This is another example of how to leverage ARPA funds by combining with another source of funds (in this case, Brownfields clean up funds). ACRPC has received $100,000 of funding for site assessment from the Vermont Brownfields Revitalization Fund*.* ACRPC also worked with a consultant to apply in December 2021 for an additional EPA Community Wide Assessment grant to identify and assess sites contaminated by hazardous substances, pollutants, petroleum, and other contaminants. The overall goal of the ACRPC Brownfields Program is to return sites with real or perceived contamination to the marketplace or to be reused for the public good such as park & ride, solar, affordable housing with solar, etc. |
| 5 | Provide child care services within some of the empty space at Beeman.  (or another unused building in town) | 3/21/22 email from resident |  | I hear so many families who are struggling to find child care for their kids and who have to move either out of state or to other areas where child care is more readily available. |
| 6 | Create some community spaces (the old church in New Haven Mills, the train depot, for example) | 3/21/22 email from resident |  | New Haven needs places for the community to come together for music, stories, or to gather to share their lives with one another. |
| 7 | Connect to Middlebury waste water lines to serve southern New Haven so that affordable housing can be built without digging multiple septic systems | From comments at 3/14/22 Planning Commission on the feasibility of building affordable housing |  | ARPA lists water and sewer infrastructure investments as allowable uses of funds. Also, $170 million of the Vermont ARPA funds are scheduled for water and sewer infrastructure projects. So leveraging New Haven and Vermont ARPA funds is a possibility.  To investigate possibility, contact **Bob Wells** Wastewater Superintendent [rwells@townofmiddlebury.org](mailto:rwells@townofmiddlebury.org)  **For research: contact Vergennes/Ferrisburgh people who have been trying to connect sewers. Katie at ACRPC has this history** |
| 8 | Build community solar with lower rates for low/mod income households | Energy Committee |  | Is there Town land or brownfields where enough solar can be installed (like Bristol’s) to have a meaningful impact? A regional project might be better if other towns are interested in sharing the costs. This could also lower the price per kW to an accessible amount for low-moderate income individuals. Such a project may also qualify for other federal funding posted in the recent ACRPC newsletter. Piggybacking with other sources of funding is listed as recommended for ARPA funding. ARPA encourages such leveraged use of their funds. |
| 9 | Weatherization of residential, municipal, and commercial buildings | Energy Committee |  | Other sources for weatherization funds are available. Including, Vermont ARPA funds, Window Dressers, rebates from Efficiency Vermont, Neighborworks, etc. ACRPC is currently pursuing the possibility of a region-wide competition to weatherize homes |
| 10 | Funding of local public transportation options (TVT, bike/walk council). Electric buses and vans? Running more often to shops, train stations, BTV? | Energy Committee |  | Currently are creating a transportation survey for New Haven to learn what would prompt residents to use public transportation or ride sharing. Since New Haven doesn’t have a developed business “downtown” surrounded by homes, bike paths would likely not be used much |
| 11 | Funding of Maple Broadband | Selectboard members, Energy Committee members, 3/22/22 em from a resident |  | Broadband is on the list of approved ARPA expenditures since it allows people to work remotely during the pandemic. To make it worthwhile, high speed Internet needs to reach most of the Town residents, some of which are in remote areas. There is also the possibility of leveraging ARPA funds for such a project. A partnership between Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom, submitted an NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Grant which, if approved, will provide over $8 million in funds dedicated to extending fiber broadband service to over 1,600 addresses in the Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom operating territory of Addison County: and Initiated a program to pre-purchase long lead-time materials now, to improve likelihood that necessary construction materials will be on hand in time to begin network construction in 2022. Also, $250.5 million of Vermont ARPA funds have been allocated to for broadband and wireless connectivity.  As per the Selectboard, the Maple Broadband money goes into a big statewide pot and they use it as they build it all out; there's no way to direct the funds to just the New Haven portion |
| 12 | Upgrade and increase output from Beldens Falls hydro plant | Energy Committee |  | Hydro is considered a renewable energy source and increasing the output of Beldens Falls would allow the Town to meet its’goals of producing more local renewable energy. Plans and materials to upgrade the power plant were in the works and then abandoned (as per Cindy Hill). These can be resurrected. We would need to work with FERC for approvals—which might be complicated. ARPA specifically says can use the $ for such a purpose |
| 13 | Premium pay for extra essential workers at a community housing shelters | 3/8/22 email from John Graham Housing & Services (JGHS) | $8,133 | Located in Vergennes, VT, JGHS provides emergency shelter, housing, and essential services to people experiencing homelessness across Addison County.  The extra workers were needed because of the increase in demand for shelter housing during the pandemic. There are 8 of these shelters Addison County. Those who use the shelters are homeless, low income, unemployed, or under-employed. |
| 14 | For a Head Start program: New well and septic system | Sent to Town Clerk |  |  |
| 15 | Update various rescue equipment | Bristol Rescue Squad | $65,000 |  |
| 16 | Renovate/update St. Mary's private school in Middlebury | Turning Point Center, Middlebury | $24,438 | Turning Point Center of Addison County is a 501(c)3 non-profit recovery center that provides a safe, friendly, and substance use free environment where all people in recovery, and their families and friends, can meet for peer-to-peer recovery support, social activities, recovery coaching, education, and advocacy. |
| 17 | Add solar to the roof of the town office, or other town buildings like the town hall | Selectboard member |  |  |
| 18 | Install automated speed limit signs for the village area | Selectboard member |  |  |
| 19 | Work with the school district to offer pre-k services in the empty space of our school and/or daycare services. | 5/10/22 email from resident |  | In light of declining enrollment in our school district, it feels that we need to put some effort into making our town/school attractive to young families. |
| 20 | Move the library into the Depot and convert the current library space into a town-sponsored daycare program | 5/10/22 email from resident |  | It could be a co-op (similar to the one in Lincoln) or subsidized by contracting with the Parent/Child Center or some of the other childcare programs. Having the library in the Depot would keep it vibrant and would insure the community would have an interest in its upkeep and longevity. Could also be used for a Headstart program. |
| 21 | Build a park for community members in the area behind the depot. | 5/10/22 email from resident |  | Park benches, trees, gardens and paths would be a great place for people to come and visit with one another and enjoy the company of friends and the beauty that is New Haven.  There are grants for these kinds of projects as well!!! |
| 22 | Use some money for community events that bring our townspeople together. | 5/10/22 email from resident |  | When people feel connected to their community, they take ownership and responsibility.  The town green folks have done an amazing job doing some of this and perhaps there could be a town-wide celebration just because.  It could happen around the fireman's BBQ or we could bring in pizza ovens near the playground so kids and families could all gather |
| 23 | Upgrade the transformer sub-station that feeds the most of New Haven so that solar interconnection projects can proceed | Energy Committee |  | Currently, the GMP transformer substations are overloaded (with solar producing sites and projects waiting for approval in the solar queue) that no new solar project over 5 kW capacity can get approval. See the red areas on the GMP solar map 2.0.  This situation can be alleviated with funds to upgrade the substation capacities. This would either be the substation at Hewitt Rd (serves Bristol and much of western New Haven) or the one in Weybridge. ARPA funds would need to be combined with funds from ARPA Bristol, VELCO, and/or GMP, etc. |