

**DATE:** Friday October 7, 2022

**TO:** Town of Lyndon Select Board, Village of Lyndonville Trustees

**FROM:** Nicole Gratton, Planning Director on behalf of ARPA Committee

**SUBJECT:** ARPA Committee Recommendation:



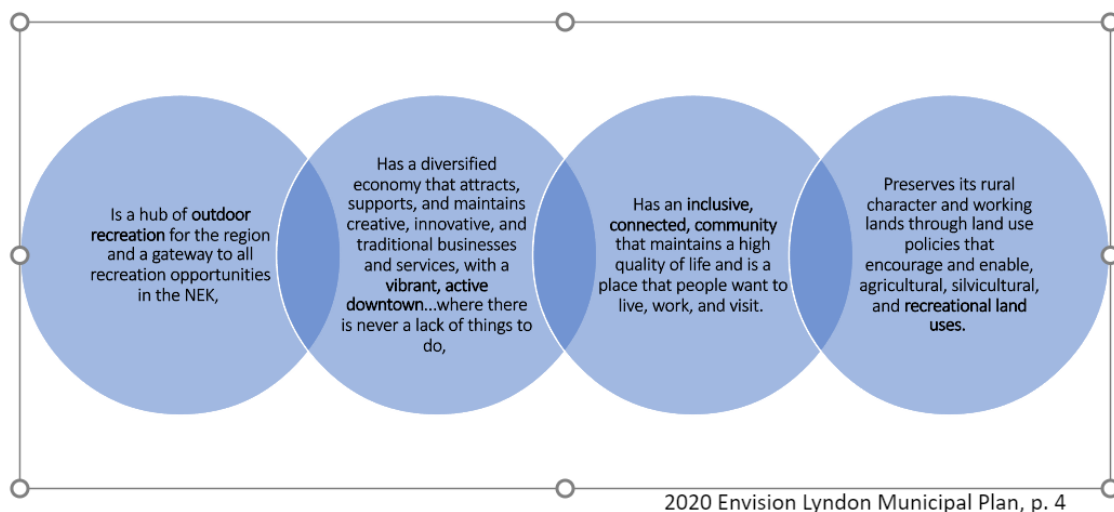
Dear Selectboard and Trustees,

The ARPA Committee has prepared the following recommendations for the Town of Lyndon and Village of Lyndonville's use of American Rescue Plan Act funding. In reading through this short synopsis, please let me know if you have any questions. This process has taken the Committee over ten months to prepare, and there may be areas of question that we have explored in depth but are just glossing over in this document. We appreciate the opportunity to serve the Town and Village in an effort to support the present and future wellbeing of this community.

The ARPA Committee developed several criteria for identifying project areas to focus on. Please note that the funding does not specifically address any one project in particular. The committee felt that focusing on project areas supported a wide variety of projects and could provide for the addition of projects that may emerge. The criteria for selecting project areas are:

1. Project areas must be supported by Town plans and/or previous public engagement feedback from Revamp the Ville (2022) or VCRD Community Visit (2017) with a strong focus on the goals for the Town as set by the 2020 Envision Lyndon Plan:


## Lyndon will be a town that:



2. Selected projects within a project area should utilize all other funding sources before using ARPA funding. This includes grants, a municipal bond at a low interest, and private investment.
3. Selected projects within the project area should use ARPA funding as required match funding in MOST situations.

- The community's support for the project areas is one factor of consideration. Other factors are equitable distribution throughout the community, investment in projects and project areas that have area wide benefits, and the feasibility of the project, including the demonstration of additional funding sources for a complete funding package and project readiness/timeliness.

With these criteria in mind, the ARPA committee makes the following recommendations:



**RECOMMENDATION #1:**  
**Provide match funds for grants that support outdoor recreation and tourism (walking trails, parks, historic preservation)**

Alignment with:  
 2020 Envision Lyndon Municipal Plan (Obj. 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, Policy 7.2, Action 7.1, 7.4, 7.5, Obj. 8.1, 8.2)  
 2017 Community Visit  
 2022 Revamp the Ville Action Workshop

Complementary funding sources:  
 FPR VOREC, ERSA, RTP  
 Historic Preservation  
 VTrans TAP and Bike Ped Grant

**Recommended contribution: \$300,000- \$350,000 used as local match on other grants**

Vision for Lyndon (2020):  
 Lyndon will be a town that is the hub of outdoor recreation for the region and a gateway to all recreation opportunities in the NEK (p.4)



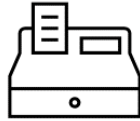
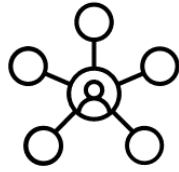
**RECOMMENDATION #2:**  
**Implement downtown projects that make walking and biking safer, beautify downtown, and helps create great public spaces.**

Alignment with:  
 2020 Envision Lyndon Municipal Plan (Obj. 3.4, Policy 6.2, 6.3 Policy 3.2, Action 3.4)  
 2017 Community Visit  
 2022 Revamp the Ville Action Workshop

Complementary funding sources:  
 Better Places  
 Downtown Fund  
 VTrans Bike Ped Program and TAP  
 Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program  
 KTA mini-grants, Outride,

**Recommended contribution: \$200,000-\$300,000 used as local match on other grants**

Vision for Lyndon (2020):  
 Lyndon will be a town....with a vibrant, active downtown (p.4)



**Vision for Lyndon (2020):**

Lyndon will be a town that has a diversified economy that attracts, supports, and maintains creative, innovative, and traditional businesses and services, with a vibrant, active downtown full of cafes, restaurants, breweries, pubs, art galleries, etc. Where there is never a lack of things to do (p.4).

**RECOMMENDATION #3 & #4:**

**Provide match funds for grants sought by existing local non-profits and organizations which provide services to the greater Lyndon community**

**Support economic development in Downtown through business improvement/startup competition funds**

Alignment with:

2020 Envision Lyndon Municipal Plan (Obj. 2.1, 2.4, Actions 2.6, 2.7, 2.9, 2.11, Policy 7.4)

2017 Community Visit

2022 Revamp the Ville Action Workshop

Requires application with support of leveraged funds  
Business Competition to support economic vitality

**Recommended contribution: \$200,000 for matches  
\$120,000 Business Competitions**

**RECOMMENDATION #5.**

**Modernize the Town owned buildings by:**

- **providing universal access,**
- **improve energy efficiency,**
- **augment gym space for community use, and**
- **improve communication with the community**



Alignment with:

2020 Envision Lyndon Municipal Plan (Obj. 4.2, Actions 4.1, Obj. 5.1, Action 5.3)

2017 Community Visit

2022 Revamp the Ville Action Workshop

Complementary funding sources:

Efficiency Vermont, EVSE Grants, USDA Community Facilities,

Improved Energy Efficiency- see House Bill H.518 on next slide



**Recommended contribution: \$250,000**

The ARPA Committee also considered how the investment into each project area would be leveraged, knowing that greater benefit can be made than just a direct investment. Below is a table showing how ARPA contributions to projects could create a far greater investment in Lyndon. As an example, if a downtown sidewalk project required a 20% match on a \$100k project, ARPA funding would cover \$20k, but the additional investment to the Town/Village would be \$80k.

**The final breakdown:**

Project Area	ARPA Contribution	Leveraged Amount	Community Benefit	TOTAL
Outdoor Recreation & Tourism	\$300-\$350k	\$700-\$1,385k	Trails, historic preservation, access	\$350k
Downtown Projects	\$300-\$400k	\$900-\$1,500k	Crosswalks, sidewalks, park improvements, bicycle infrastructure, façade improvement loan, wayfinding, canopy care	\$400k
Local Organizations-Match Pool	\$200-\$250k	\$700-\$800k	Increased capacity and impact by local organizations	\$250k
Business Competition	\$120k	\$360k	Support existing or new businesses, technical assistance	\$120k
Improvements to Town Buildings: *universal access, improve gym space, improve communication	\$225-\$250k	undetermined	Improved access for all, increased use of gymnasium (revenue source?), energy savings, better communication	\$250k
Capacity Building	\$125k	\$250k	Future Designated Downtown Employee	\$125k
TOTAL:				\$1495k/ \$1695k
			Balance:	\$200k

The ARPA Committee did not make a recommendation for a final \$200k of the \$1,695k ARPA allocation. We know that there are often projects that emerge and require fast action. It is hoped that this reserve can support a pressing need in the Town or Village as it arises, with the same consideration that the funding be used to its maximum point of leverage.

We hope this document gives you an overview of the work the ARPA Committee has done over the past ten months and highlights the key project areas that the Committee recommends for funding. Again, specific projects are not noted. It is also assumed that there is additional work for the ARPA Committee to do. This includes finalizing an application for non-profit and local organizations seeking funding under the Match for Local Organizations project area, collaborating with Do North Coworking to prepare and implement successful business competition, and support the municipality in their work to choose projects for improving the downtown, supporting outdoor recreation and tourism, improving the municipal building, and building capacity.

If you have any questions, please reach out to us via Nicole Gratton, Planning Director. She can be reached at [planning@lyndonvt.org](mailto:planning@lyndonvt.org). She will be sure that all information is shared to the entire ARPA Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'N. Gratton', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nicole Gratton

Planning Director, on behalf of ARPA  
Committee

Town of Lyndon