Suggestion to begin a series of discussions regarding the recommendations made by the Planning Commission to the Selectboard for use of the ARPA funds

Hold a series of 3 one-hour meetings as part of our regular Selectboard meetings. Discuss a few of the recommendations at each meeting. Invite subject matter experts to discuss each recommendation and what some of our next steps would need to be to get started on it. Ask each speaker to answer a series of questions to help us evaluate/scope the size of the effort.

SELECTBOARD MEETING #1			
Recommendation	**Request from Town**	**Questions to Experts**	**Experts**
#3 Provide funding for renovating or upgrading septic systems for homeowners who want to create <u>long term</u> housing units in their homes or as accessory dwelling units.	• Fund incentives for creation of affordable and accessible long-term housing, in individual homes and appropriate-scale multi-dwelling units	• Are there new **septic systems** that would allow a homeowner to increase their capacity in order to create long-term housing on their property? • If yes, are there examples of how other communities have funded these upgrades or does it tend to be fully paid for by the homeowner? • If we want to undertake a study of **water and sewer treatment**, what would be the first step we should consider? • Based on your knowledge, is the state open to funding water and sewer treatment facilities? Are they open to funding upgraded septic systems? • Can you describe the general timeline it takes to go from initial study to implementation? Can you describe the general cost? • If we want to consider pursuing both of these recommendations, what would be the first step we should take to analyze our options?	Chris Campany, WRC Juli Beth Hinds, Birchline Planning LLC
#6 Implement a water/septic study to assess opportunities or obstacles to economic, business, and housing opportunities such as those mentioned in Recommendations #1 and #3.	• Recommendation #1: Multi-use center - renovating existing structures or building a new one. • Recommendation #3: Upgrading septic for long-term housing or Accessory Dwelling Units • Generally speaking – Any duplex or triplex proposals in the villages have to be attentive to water & septic		

SELECTBOARD MEETING #2			
Recommendation	**Request from Town**	**Questions to Experts**	**Experts**
#1 Purchase and/or renovate a building or buildings in Newfane (e.g. Newfane Inn or abandoned South Newfane Country Store) to develop a multi-use center for housing and to promote businesses & provide multi-generational community space.	• Develop a community **center** by upgrading existing community building(s) • Create a fund for community arts, recreation **spaces** and events • Purchase and renovate **property** in Newfane for economic development and housing • Create business incubation **space** • Fund support for local child-care	• Newfane, unlike most towns, has 3 separate downtown areas. In considering a multi-use center, is one downtown equal to the others in terms of its ability to host a center? • Are there some good models for developing and managing a community space? How should it be managed (by the town or by an outside group such as a not-for-profit)? • Based on your knowledge of the neighboring towns, do you think there would be interest in this idea and if so, who should we discuss it with? • In your opinion, can the ideas in these two recommendations be merged together into one location? • Based on your knowledge of potential funding opportunities, do you think this project is likely to attract significant grants?	• Chris Campany or Sue Westa or another rep from WRC
#2 Partner with neighboring towns to create a multi-use center providing multi-generational community space and create a shuttle service between Newfane and neighboring towns. This space could include food service, entertainment and recreation such as a skate park, swimming pool or skating rink.	• See reasons for Recommendation #1 • Discussions with Leland & Gray students who want places to go • Considerable interest in transportation including support to establish bus service to connect Newfane residents w/ work, school, & services		
#5 Support residents' health by establishing bicycle and walking infrastructure.	• Establish bicycle and walking infrastructure	• Are there some good examples of bike/walking paths built in other communities that we could look to for examples? • What makes for a good bike/walking path – along a road, in the woods, other?	

SELECTBOARD MEETING #3			
Recommendation	**Request from Town**	**Questions to Experts**	**Experts**
#4 Allocate funding for broadband drop costs and possible underground connection costs to residents when not affordable.	• Economic sustainability received the most dollars in the survey overall. Broadband is an essential component of the workplace (whether one works at home or away from home).	• What is the current status of the broadband rollout plans? • When is it likely to get to Newfane? • What do you know so far about the needs in Newfane – how many homes will need to be connected, where are they? • There is so much funding come from the state for expanded broadband coverage, what will they cover and what will they not? • How are other towns addressing drop costs and underground connections costs?	Jane Douglas, DVCUD representative from Newfane * Steven John, vice chairman of the DVCUD governing board. Steven has volunteered to meet with any select board to explain the options available for towns to support bringing broadband to the unserved and under-served homes in our town.

* Note: Jane suggested inviting Steven John to a meeting to discuss broadband.