

**TOWN OF WALLINGFORD  
WALLINGFORD ARPA APPLICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE  
45 Main Street, Town Hall  
Room #315**

**Wednesday, February 21, 2023  
6:30 p.m.**

**DRAFT UNAPPROVED RECORD OF VOTES AND MINUTES**

The chairman called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Those in attendance rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Members in attendance were Carl Bonamico, Mike Brodinsky, Craig Fishbein, Robert Fritz, Mike Glidden, Robert Gross, Jacqueline McNamee, Christopher Regan, Jesse Reynolds, and Amy Walsh.

*Recusals: Michael Brodinsky for Wallingford Public Access Association  
Craig Fishbein for Wallingford Symphony Orchestra  
Mr. Glidden for Hungarian Community Club*

*Applicants in attendance included:*

*Wallingford Symphony Orchestra  
Hungarian Community Club  
Zion Lutheran Church  
Wallingford Little League  
Masters Manna, Inc.  
CT State Grange Foundation for the Benefit of Wallingford Grange*

**Discussion and Possible Action on the following grant applications**

**Wallingford YMCA**

Mr. Brodinsky outlined the application. He noted that some Y programs are not targeted to those most impacted. The Y charges a fee. It has a lot of money and there's no case for financial assistance. Yet, the application includes money for non-program uses like capital expenses and items that the Y would need to replace on a regular basis anyway. He said that the Committee should consider that the Y would make money from grant money. Mr. Brodinsky explained that the town could claw back fees the Y might charge. Or, the Y would have to keep records proving that fees generated by ARPA funded programs paid for ARPA eligible uses only. He favored funding the program costs but not the capital expenses or item replacements.

Committee comments on this application included:

- There was a significant financial impact
- The Y is financially stronger now
- The program provides programming to address positive long-term impact on kids
- The programs address impact on the youths with nothing to do during COVID and feeling isolated, now disrupting activity in the town center.
- The youth nights have a fee currently.

- Addresses mental health concerns for kids.
- Provided statistics on the impact of COVID on youth.
- This appears to be a response to COVID
- Upward Bound looks like it's being recommended by social workers at schools
- Did a great job of supporting the need for the program
- This fits the guidelines
- The programs exist now, so hopefully, this means an increase in the number of participants.
- No reason to be punitive due to a lack of invoices
- Proportionality
- The YMCA does great work
- Finances were affected by COVID
- This population took a direct hit and continues to struggle.

Mr. Regan supports the notion that it is tied to the Upward Bound program.

Mr. Glidden stated that he would not support the motion for limiting it to Wallingford residents. He would allow mixed family settings such as step-siblings that don't live in town. Look at the impact on youth.

Mr. Reynolds stated that he'd be in favor of amending the approval based on the program being free to Wallingford kids

Ms. Walsh stated that she is in favor of amending the motion.

Mr. Gross stated that he is in favor of the motion.

Mr. Bonamico stated that he supports the motion.

Mr. Brodinsky stated that if the average score passes, the next motion would make it a condition of approval that Upward Bound would be at no cost to Wallingford residents.

No second-round comments were made. Score sheets were handed in.

**Total Scores:**

<b>Brodinsky:</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>Gross:</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>Bonamico:</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>McNamee:</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>Fishbein:</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>Regan:</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>Fritz</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>Reynolds:</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Glidden:</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>Walsh:</b>	<b>90</b>

**The average score is 80.8**

**Motion to include in the motion the condition that the Upward Bound Program be offered at no cost to Wallingford Youth.**

**Made by: Mr. Brodinsky**

**Seconded by: Mr. Gross**

**Vote:**

<b>Brodinsky:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Gross:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Bonamico:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>McNamee:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Fishbein:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Regan:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Fritz</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Reynolds:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Glidden:</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Walsh:</b>	<b>No</b>

**Ayes: 7**  
**Nays: 3**  
**Recusal: 0**  
**Absent: 0**

**Motion carries**

**Motion to recommend further favorable action on the application of the Wallingford YMCA in the amount of \$290,066.31 with the condition of approval that the Upward Bound Program be offered at no cost to Wallingford youth.**

**Made by: Mr. Brodinsky**  
**Seconded by: Mr. Regan**

**Vote:**

<b>Brodinsky:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Gross:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Bonamico:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>McNamee:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Fishbein:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Regan:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Fritz</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Reynolds:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Glidden:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Walsh:</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**Ayes:10**  
**Nays: 0**  
**Recusal: 0**  
**Absent: 0**

**Motion carries**

**Wallingford Public Access Association d/b/a WPAA-TV and Community Media Center**

*Mike Brodinsky recused and Mike Glidden took over as chair.*

Mr. Reynolds outlined the application. This falls under the category of non-profit assistance proposals, not necessarily for a program. The pandemic impacted their ability to operate fully. They had to supplement some of their staff with paid staff. The application states that their reliance on volunteers made them vulnerable. They are looking to invest some money into staff and continue to grow. In addition, they are looking to replace some equipment. They are requesting \$14,144.

Committee comments on this application included:

- They include revenue lost to date in their budget, which is not allowed under ARPA.
- The amount they request covers the staff administrative cost. It was just worded poorly.
- It was agreed that it is not debt allocation.
- Small ask considering the ROI
- Exclusively Wallingford
- It appears that in the middle of the pandemic, salaries were doubled.
- That is a negative impact because they used to use volunteers
- Gross revenue went up from 2019 to 2020 then down in 2021
- Organizations have invested in salaries to try to get back to where they were before.

- They paid off their mortgage in 2020, instead of putting that money in reserves
- Income for 2020 increased
- Took a hit
- Meet all the criteria
- Needed service for the Town
- Not convinced of the sustainability of the solution
- Is this a temporary fix? If so it doesn't meet the guidelines.
- The fact that they have reserves shows that the position is sustainable.
- This position does not increase revenue.
- Been in the community for many years.
- It is a temporary position to get them up to speed.

No second-round comments were made. Score sheets were handed in.

**Total Scores:**

<b>Brodinsky:</b>	<b>recused</b>	<b>Gross:</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>Bonamico:</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>McNamee:</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Fishbein:</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>Regan:</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>Fritz</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>Reynolds:</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>Glidden:</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>Walsh:</b>	<b>80</b>

The average score is 76.33

**Motion to recommend further favorable action on the application of Wallingford Public Access Association d/b/a WPAA-TV and Community Media Center in the amount of \$14,144.**

**Made by: Mr. Glidden**

**Seconded by: Mr. Bonamico**

**Vote:**

<b>Brodinsky:</b>	<b>recused</b>	<b>Gross:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Bonamico:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>McNamee:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Fishbein:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Regan:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Fritz</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Reynolds:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Glidden:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Walsh:</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**Ayes: 9**

**Nays: 0**

**Recusal: 0**

**Absent: 0**

**Motion carries**

Due to time constraints, it was agreed to proceed with only the applications that had representatives in attendance. The remaining applications will be rescheduled to another meeting.

**Wallingford Symphony Orchestra**

*Craig Fishbein recused*

Mr. Glidden outlined the application. They are asking for \$20,000 to plan future concerts. They provided 990s. The pandemic impacted them dramatically. They had a significant drop in revenue since 2019. The benefits of the program were clearly explained. He noted that he scored it as a programming request.

Committee comments on this application included:

- Question on which scoring sheet to use, programming or hardship.
- The proposal appears to be a temporary fix
- Struggled with the program impacting a COVID need.
- Is the concert going to be free if they receive these funds?
- How is it Wallingford-centric?
- Their revenue comes from the concerts
- A great organization that has been around for a long time.
- Would have liked to have seen tax returns
- Modest request
- The summer concert is free, they give to the community.
- The effects of COVID on this organization have not dissipated.
- It was noted that the organization has been around for 49 years.

There was a discussion on whether to score it as a program or assistance. Mr. Brodinsky suggested scoring first on programming and if that fails, we will try scoring as assistance.

Programming score sheets were handed in.

**Total Scores:**

<b>Brodinsky:</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>Gross:</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>Bonamico:</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>McNamee:</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>Fishbein:</b>	<b>recused</b>	<b>Regan:</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>Fritz</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>Reynolds:</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Glidden:</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>Walsh:</b>	<b>65</b>

The average score is 81.67

**Motion to recommend further favorable action on the application of Wallingford Symphony Orchestra in the amount of \$20,000.**

**Made by: Mr. Brodinsky**

**Seconded by: Ms. McNamee**

**Vote:**

<b>Brodinsky:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Gross:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Bonamico:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>McNamee:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Fishbein:</b>	<b>recused</b>	<b>Regan:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Fritz</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Reynolds:</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Glidden:</b>	<b>yes</b>	<b>Walsh:</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**Ayes: 9**

**Nays: 0**

**Recusal: 1**

**Absent: 0**

**Motion carries**

**Hungarian Community Club**

*Mr. Glidden recused*

Mr. Fishbein outlined the application. The club has been here for many years. They are looking to replace their roof and some flooring for \$30,000. The application indicates the roof is 25 years old. There is no indication that there was any attempt to replace the roof pre-pandemic. Are we paying for deferred maintenance? There was nothing that says how many from Wallingford are served.

Committee comments on this application included:

- Straightforward application
- There are no quotes
- Their revenues are still not back to pre-pandemic levels.
- Reasonable
- The affirmation is not checked, but it was on a different form
- A long-term maintenance item
- Weak application
- A definite decline in revenue
- The pandemic didn't cause the roof issues

There was a discussion on whether to score it as a program or assistance. Mr. Brodinsky suggested scoring first on assistance and if that fails, we will try scoring as a program application.

Assistance score sheets were handed in.

**Total Scores:**

<b>Brodinsky:</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>Gross:</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Bonamico:</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>McNamee:</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>Fishbein:</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>Regan:</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>Fritz</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>Reynolds:</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>Glidden:</b>	<b>recuse</b>	<b>Walsh:</b>	<b>63</b>

**The average score is 62.78**

The first question on the programming scoring sheet has a yes or no response. The question is: The proposed project will affect the negative economic and/or health impact due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Brodinsky indicated that an application would have to receive at least 6 yes responses (a supermajority) to pass. If there are 4 no's then it won't pass.

Programming score sheets were handed in.

**Total Scores:**

<b>Brodinsky:</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Gross:</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Bonamico:</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>McNamee:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Fishbein:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Regan:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Fritz</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Reynolds:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Glidden:</b>	<b>recused</b>	<b>Walsh:</b>	<b>No</b>

**Motion to recommend no further favorable action on the application of the Hungarian Community Club, Inc.**

**Made by: Mr. Brodinsky**

**Seconded by: Mr. Regan**

**Vote:**

<b>Brodinsky:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Gross:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Bonamico:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>McNamee:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Fishbein:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Regan:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Fritz</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Reynolds:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Glidden:</b>	<b>recused</b>	<b>Walsh:</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**Ayes: 9**

**Nays: 0**

**Recusal: 1**

**Absent: 0**

**Motion carries**

**Zion Lutheran Church**

Mr. Gross outlined the application. Want to do projects around the church, including repairing the driveway and doing some publicity. They also asked for \$12,000 to help offset the operating deficit by paying expenses for payroll and utilities. He noted that he didn't see how they were economically impacted during COVID. They received PPP. Endowments and reserves went up during this time. This is an assistance application.

Committee comments on this application included:

- Very thorough application
- Definite loss
- Not a loss at all; they have more money post-Covid
- If a programming application would score better
- They had more money in 2021 than in 2019 so it's hard to make the case
- They show deficits in 2021 and presently
- They planned to do some of this work and it was delayed because of the pandemic
- Yes, impacted by COVID
- Serving the community, yes
- Income was impacted by COVID
- Services impaired by the pandemic, yes.
- Request appropriate
- Bigger losses in 2018 and 2019
- Can't distinguish declining parishioner numbers
- They have a lot of money so don't think it is a hardship.
- We don't know how the endowments are restricted.

Assistance score sheets were handed in.

**Total Scores:**

**Brodinsky: 34**  
**Bonamico: 65**  
**Fishbein: 90**  
**Fritz: 80**  
**Glidden: 80**  
**The average score is 73.9**

**Gross: 55**  
**McNamee: 80**  
**Regan: 85**  
**Reynolds: 85**  
**Walsh: 85**

**Motion to recommend no further favorable action on the application of Zion Lutheran Church.**  
**Made by: Mr. Brodinsky**  
**Seconded by: Mr. Regan**

**Vote:**

<b>Brodinsky:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Gross:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Bonamico:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>McNamee:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Fishbein:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Regan:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Fritz:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Reynolds:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Glidden:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Walsh:</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**Ayes: 10**  
**Nays: 0**  
**Recusal: 0**  
**Absent: 0**

**Motion carries**

**Wallingford Little League**

Ms. McNamee outlined the application for assistance. They have been in town for 74 years. No kids were playing baseball in 2020. They started playing again in 2021, but with limited schedules. Uniforms were ordered but they had to refund parents. There was a question on whether the Town Council approved some of the funds that they are requesting. If they received that \$4,000, their request is \$20,829. Funds will be used to maintain the fields, prepare the kids, batting cages, scoreboard, etc.

Committee comments on this application included:

- Definite loss due to COVID
- An extensive detailed list with prices
- Will help maintain town parks
- Revenue is still way below what it was in 2019
- Have not bounced back from COVID
- Do they have permission to do this stuff?
- Would like to see all this stuff happen
- Demonstrated need
- Serve the community
- Application as it stands is a strong application
- Good application
- Sports shut down during COVID
- Will address the negative impact of COVID on health



Assistance score sheets were handed in.

**Total Scores:**

<b>Brodinsky:</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>Gross:</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>Bonamico:</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>McNamee:</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>Fishbein:</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>Regan:</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Fritz</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>Reynolds:</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>Glidden:</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>Walsh:</b>	<b>90</b>

**The average score is 87.5**

Mr. Brodinsky suggested a condition of approval that none of the money they are requesting is duplicated by Town ARPA money or Town Council action. Do we add something like 'with the Town's permission'?

**Motion to recommend further favorable action on the application of Wallingford Little League in the amount of \$24,829.**

**Made by: Mr. Brodinsky**

**Seconded by: Mr. Glidden**

**Vote:**

<b>Brodinsky:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Gross:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Bonamico:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>McNamee:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Fishbein:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Regan:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Fritz</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Reynolds:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Glidden:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Walsh:</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**Ayes: 10**

**Nays: 0**

**Recusal: 0**

**Absent: 0**

**Motion carries**

**Masters Manna, Inc.**

Mr. Reynolds outlined the assistance application. Very well thought out and documented. There is no doubt based on the numbers that they were impacted by COVID. They currently have 1,500 registered clients. They are asking for \$25,000.

Committee comments on this application included:

- Demonstrate that serve Wallingford households
- Food insecurity was impacted by COVID
- Reasonable request
- Looking for nuts and bolts things
- The need is great due to the pandemic
- Excellent organization

Mr. Brodinsky noted that they filled out part A and part B, but it looks like the same amount of money, just the \$25,000. It is the same items on each. So it is only one request. There was an agreement to score on the program application first.

Program score sheets were handed in.

**Total Scores:**

<b>Brodinsky:</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>Gross:</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>Bonamico:</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>McNamee:</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Fishbein:</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>Regan:</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Fritz</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>Reynolds:</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>Glidden:</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>Walsh:</b>	<b>95</b>

The average score is 92.7

**Motion to recommend further favorable action on the application of Master’s Manna, Inc. in the amount of \$25,000.**

**Made by: Mr. Brodinsky**

**Seconded by: Mr. Fishbein**

**Vote:**

<b>Brodinsky:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Gross:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Bonamico:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>McNamee:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Fishbein:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Regan:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Fritz</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Reynolds:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Glidden:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Walsh:</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**Ayes: 10**

**Nays: 0**

**Recusal: 0**

**Absent: 0**

**Motion carries**

**CT State Grange Foundation for the Benefit of Wallingford Grange**

Ms. Walsh outlined the application. Their building has been there since 1933. Prior to the pandemic, they had Grange meetings twice a month and other community-based events. The State Grange Foundation is a 501c3. They are asking for assistance with some capital repairs, including the roof, making the elevator ADA-compliant, and upgrading bathrooms. The total request is \$182,000 out of the total project cost of \$200,000. They did not specify the size of the population served or the specific audience. They include possibilities of community events. There is not a lot of documentation for the project costs. She proposed just focusing on the roof project. All the financial information is from the State Grange Foundation, not specific to the Wallingford Grange.

It was noted that this is a program and an assistance application.

Committee comments on this application included:

- They provided some P&Ls but not all the required years

- Difficult to compare prior years to current years without the documentation
- Need to consider the degree to which they provide services to Wallingford residents
- Consider the degree to which the non-profit's ability to provide services was impaired by the pandemic.
- Does the State entity own the building?
- The State entity's financial information doesn't tell us the local impact.
- Lots of great programs that they are thinking of starting.
- Don't have enough information to determine the Wallingford impact.
- The Grange provides a service to the Town.
- Membership declined to almost non-existent, which is why there are no financial statements.
- They have reconstituted post-pandemic to reenergize this group.
- COVID was the death nail in a declining membership.
- They need assistance.
- The proposed costs are reasonable.
- Some of these improvements have to be done for the proposed programs to go forward
- Would consider focusing funding on the roof.

Assistance score sheets were handed in.

**Total Scores:**

<b>Brodinsky:</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>Gross:</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Bonamico:</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>McNamee:</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Fishbein:</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Regan:</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Fritz</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>Reynolds:</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Glidden:</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>Walsh:</b>	<b>50</b>

**The average score is 59.6**

Program score sheets were handed in.

Regarding the first question: The proposed project will address the negative economic or health impacts due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There were 5 no responses.

<b>Brodinsky:</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Gross:</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Bonamico:</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>McNamee:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Fishbein:</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Regan:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Fritz</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Reynolds:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Glidden:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Walsh:</b>	<b>No</b>

**Motion to recommend no further favorable action on the application of the CT State Grange Foundation for the Benefit of Wallingford Grange.**

**Made by: Mr. Brodinsky**

**Seconded by: Mr. Fishbein**

**Vote:**

<b>Brodinsky:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Gross:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Bonamico:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>McNamee:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Fishbein:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Regan:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Fritz</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Reynolds:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Glidden:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Walsh:</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**Ayes: 10**  
**Nays: 0**  
**Recusal: 0**  
**Absent: 0**

**Motion carries**

Mr. Gross mentioned that there was a discussion that if the scores came in close to the cut-off, we would potentially talk about them again. He referred to the Zion Lutheran Church application. It was noted that a tiebreaker was discussed. In the case of this application, rounding would get them to a score of 74 while 75 is the cut-off.

**Adjournment**

**Motion to Adjourn at approximately 9:15 pm**

Respectfully submitted,  
Cheryl-Ann Tubby  
Recording Secretary