Non-profit 501-C-3 Hope Historical Society Letterhead

To: Scituate Town Council

From: Fred Faria

 Founding Member Hope Historical Society

 Past President Scituate Preservation Society

Date: February 14, 2022

Re: ARPA Funds / Scituate Historic Informational Signage

The Hope Historical Society wishes the Scituate Town Council to consider this a proposal to use a portion of the Scituate American Rescue Plan Act [ARPA] funds to create 15 – 20 Scituate Historic Informational Signage. See attached example

Over the years there has been discussion from folks in town about having town wide Scituate Historic Informational Signage to honor our rich cultural and historic past. This signage will also serve as an educational & passive recreational mechanism for students, town residents and visitors. These types of signs are used by US Park Service, RI DEM, cities & towns and more.

Guidelines for *ARPA* funds:

<https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRF-Final-Rule-Overview.pdf>

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- “….Here are some common examples, although this list is not exhaustive:

Road building and maintenance, and other infrastructure…”

Definition of infrastructure

- Per <https://www.dictionary.com/> Infrastructure can be defined as the fundamental facilities and systems serving a country, city, or area, as transportation and communication systems, power plants, and schools……

- ARPA funds used for Scituate Historic Informational Signage fits into the communication systems category. Signage is a basic form of communication.

Scituate Historic Informational Signage aligns with the present *Scituate Comprehensive Plan.* Sections that match up to the proposal:

- H-2.1 Policy Planning Chart - Cultural Resources Goal: Educate Residents about their Historic/Cultural Resources as well as Investigate other vehicles for local education.

- This leads to H-4.2 Goal #2: Educate Residents About Cultural Resources

•Continue and expand existing educational efforts.

Request: authorization for Hope Historical Society, a 501-C-3 Not For Profit organization, to use Scituate ARPA funds to:

- 1. Create / Develop 15 – 20 historical informational signs that would be town wide to honor our cultural and historic past as well as serve as an educational vehicle for students, town residents and visitors.

- 2. Create a volunteer committee to bring this project to completion. Committee members will include members of the Hope Historical Society, the Scituate Preservation Society, and other members of the community with demonstrated historical knowledge and expertise. The committee will be a cross section of residents from all of Scituate to make it a town wide activity. At this time a small group, including myself, Tom Angell, Ray Wolf, Harley Bartlett, Dean Huff and others have already agreed to work on this exciting project. The committee will put together the cultural and historic verbiage and visuals and will include the lost villages taken for the reservoir.

- 3. Contract with a graphic artist to produce camera ready visuals and copy to best depict our rich cultural and historical history.

- 4. Contract with a vendor that has experience producing and installing high quality signs that meet the signage standards of the US Park Service, RI DEM and any other standards.

The Scituate Historic Informational Signage can serve as an educational tool at all levels for the Scituate school system. Good quality text and graphics are always a wonderful way for students to learn our history and heritage. Getting the students to go outside the classroom environment has shown success in many pedagogical studies.

The pandemic has been a tragedy for the world. For our town, a local tragedy took place 100 years ago when the land was taken for the reservoir. This signage can help today’s students and residents get a better understanding of our local tragedy as the land was taken by eminent domain often from families who owned their land for generations. These signs will serve as “place keeping” as we “unearth and weave memories together to preserve a place and build it stronger”. The quotes in the previous sentence are from a guest columnist article published in the Providence Journal on use of ARPA funds in Providence.

As passive recreation, this signage could be used to create a Scituate Heritage Trail accessible by foot in the villages of North Scituate and Hope and by bike for the historic signs not in the present-day villages. Many historical and preservation organizations offer digital historic sites and village walking tours. This can be an offshoot from this endeavor. Naturally, these are accessible by car for those who wish.

Leaders and members of a variety of organizations have voiced support for this proposal. This project would build on the QR code (Quick Response code) historical information project done as a Scituate school project.

The request for this proposal is $62,000. + 5% Contingency $3100 = $65,100

As a starting point, attached are proposals for the Scituate Historic Informational Signage Project.

In keeping with the intent of ARPA, we will look for a local/town sign maker that meets the qualifications as well as a local/town graphic artist so they may replace lost revenue that occurred during the pandemic.

* AA Sign $52,950.
* HulaFish Graphic Artists $ 9,000.