

# Town of Underhill

## ARPA Funds Use Proposal - PHASE I

Committee/Group/Individual Requesting Funding: **Planning Commission**

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Date: **2/3/2023**

Proposal Name/Brief Description: **Farms and Forests of Underhill - Film Series Proposal**

The Underhill Town Plan highlights the value we place on forests and fields as a major part of our rural character. The Plan identifies the need for good land stewardship, for maintaining natural features, and for conserving working farms and managed forests. Yet maintaining these open spaces continues to be a challenge as our community grows and the need for housing increases.

The Town Plan identifies the need to ensure the **viability of agriculture and forest economies, promote sustainable management practices, support local food and forest products, and educate residents about our natural resources**. The following proposal addresses these by incorporating local voices into a story about our forests and farms for today and into the future.

1. **The Farms of Underhill:** Produce a series of short films highlighting farms in Underhill with the purpose of:
  - a. Informing residents about local agriculture
  - b. Understanding concerns facing farmers
  - c. Identifying ways the town can better support local agriculture

This will be filmed and produced in collaboration with MMCTV, making use of their equipment and editing services. Questions will be posed to farmers about their land, what they grow/raise, constraints they experience, and their personal stories on farming. The goal is to interview 3-4 farms in the spring, summer and fall. Each season will feature different farmers and a film of about 10 minutes in length. High school students will be hired to assist with filming and narration.

2. **The Forests of Underhill:** Produce a series of short films highlighting forests and forestry in Underhill with the purpose of:
  - a. Informing residents about different types of forests and how they are managed
  - b. Understanding concerns of forest landowners and foresters
  - c. Learning about local forest products
  - d. Identifying ways the town can better support local forests and forestry

This will be filmed and produced in collaboration with MMCTV, making use of their equipment and editing services. Questions will be posed to forest landowners about their land, ways forestland is managed, constraints they experience, and their personal

stories on their forests. Interviews with professional foresters will provide background on forest management, tree harvesting and wood products. The goal is to interview 3-4 landowners in the summer, fall and winter. Additional interviews with 2-3 State Foresters and forest consultants will be done at the start to incorporate into each of the 3 films. Each season will feature different forest landowners and a film of about 10 minutes in length. High school students will be hired to assist with filming and narration.

Timeline: Start late spring of 2023, end winter of 2024. Farming film series first then forest series.

Personnel:

Staff at MMCTV

High School Student(s)

Sandy Wilmot (Planning Commission)

Estimated Cost:

Student time (ca. 5 hours/film at \$15.00/hr) =  $\$75 \times 6 = \$450$

MMCTV staff and equipment: batteries and storage = \$550

Volunteer time donated from Sandy Wilmot

Promotion materials and mailing: 2 postcard printing and mailings at \$600 ea. = \$1,200

**Total Cost = \$2,200**

## Benefit to Town of Underhill

Does this proposal ...

	YES	NO	Not Sure
Invest in the town without creating a need for additional or ongoing revenue or expenses? Is this a one-time expense?	X		
Benefit a population that was disproportionately impacted by the pandemic?	X		
Benefit a population underserved prior to the pandemic?	X		
Mitigate and/or help the Town adapt to the effects of climate change?	X		
Improve or create infrastructure for Underhill? Ex. Natural resources pedestrian access, transportation but not limited to		X	
Align with or impact the goals and priorities of the Town Plan?	X		

Comments:

## Feasibility of Project

Can this proposal ...

	YES	NO	Not Sure
Be fully planned, estimated and obligated to the Town by December 31, 2024?	X		
Be fully completed and paid for by the end of 2026?	X		
Be used to leverage or match other grants, funds or projects?		X	