



Frequently Asked Questions (revised 7/18/18)

1. What is “*Imagine Sharon*”? *Imagine Sharon* will be a living document containing an agreed upon vision for the Town’s future in a comprehensive long-range plan (10 to 20 years) that will include goals and actions to achieve those goals. The comprehensive plan will help preserve our past and forge our future ...

Imagine Sharon!

2. What is the *Imagine Sharon* planning process? The Sharon Master Plan, *Imagine Sharon*, will help to shape the future of the Town by articulating a desired long-range vision (10 to 20 years) and laying out the steps for implementation. *Imagine Sharon* will translate community values and desires into public policies that help address the potential forces of change. The Plan will need to address the struggle between concerns regarding development, preservation, and protection of desired elements, while defining the “place-identity” for Sharon, its neighborhoods, and special places. It will identify the community's goals and objectives as well as providing strategies designed to achieve them.

The Town of Sharon has established a Master Plan Steering Committee comprised of residents representing Town departments, boards, and committees, as well as Town citizens. The Committee hired CivicMoxie as the lead planning consultant for the master plan. The Committee will provide valuable input for meeting the desired goals of the Town and aid in guiding the consultant through completing the subject areas in the master plan. The planning process includes review and coordination of existing area plans and specialty plans like the Post Office Square Area Plan, the Housing Production Plan, and the Open Space and Recreation Plan, and also preparation of studies of other topics in a comprehensive way.

The Town desires to make the process as community-based as possible, providing opportunities for learning as well as engaging citizens in a comprehensive discussion shaping the future of our community. The Plan will be shaped by the community visioning process reflecting broad and inclusive public participation. The Town wants an innovative approach to engaging stakeholders, interest groups, residents, property owners, businesses, and others who live or work in Sharon. The process includes reaching out to all members of the Sharon community through public meetings, social media, and surveys.

3. Who is on the Master Plan Steering Committee (MPSC) and what do they do? Pasqualino Pannone, Planning Board (Co-Chair); Shannon McLaughlin, Planning Board (Co-Chair), Eli Hauser, Board of Selectmen appointee; Ted Philips, Finance Committee; Susan Rich, Community Preservation Committee; Peg Arguimbau, Conservation Commission; Joseph Garber, Zoning Board of Appeals; Chuck Levine, Board of Health; Mena Mesiha, School Committee; David Crosby, Water Management Advisory Committee; At-Large Citizen Members: Laura Smead, Signe Peterson Flieger, Susan Olson Drisko, Keri Murray. Susan Price, AICP, Planner for Sharon DPW.

The MPSC members work with Town staff, boards, commissions, consultants, regional planning agency, and the citizens of Sharon, to formulate drafts of a new long-range plan for the Town. Over the course of its work, the MPSC will seek the meaningful involvement of the Sharon community in shaping the vision, goals, and strategies set forth in the *Imagine Sharon* document.

4. How long will the master planning process take? The MPSC is expecting the planning process will continue until a final plan is completed by Summer/Fall 2019 (approximately 18 months).

5. How can I be involved? There will be many different ways residents, business owners, property owners, and employees who work in and for the Town can participate in this process. Submit your email address to the *Imagine Sharon* website to be notified of all upcoming meetings and events. Some opportunities include:

- Three public outreach events to be scheduled in June 2018, October 2018 and May 2019
- Participate in the September – October public survey
- Visit the “Imagine Sharon” information tables that will be set up at a variety of public events (Town Meeting, July Third, Square Jam ... and more)
- Follow the project on social media on Facebook and Twitter @ImagineSharon

6. What are the topics to be covered in “Imagine Sharon”? Policy recommendations are developed over the course of the project through interviews and outreach to the community through surveys, forums, and meetings. The recommendations will be presented to the various Town boards and committees to use as guidelines. *Imagine Sharon* will address long term concerns and expectations for economic development, future growth, housing, demographics, open space, natural and cultural resources, recreation, land use, zoning, town services, transportation, mobility, circulation, and other topics as prioritized through the focus groups and meetings.

7. How can we know that Imagine Sharon will actually be implemented? The MPSC and CivicMoxie will evaluate the information gathered during the visioning sessions to determine a common interest and direction for the Town and will use input to make sure action items are part of the plan. They will develop a timeline of key milestone dates which list out the action items and recommendations required for the various Town committees and departments to meet the approved goals. As draft recommendations are developed, they will be discussed with Town department heads and others who will be responsible for implementation to ensure that everyone is on the same page and that recommendations are realistic. Once a well-developed plan is created, a warrant article may be proposed to both present and seek approval of the master plan at Town Meeting. Ultimately, an implementation committee should be created to continue using the master plan and advancing the strategies included within it and to keep the *Imagine Sharon* alive.