

## SHARON GOVERNANCE STUDY COMMITTEE MINUTES

*September 29, 2021*

The meeting of the Sharon Governance Study Committee was called to order at 7:05 pm by Chair Paul Pietal.

### Member attendance

Arguimbau: Absent	Carver: Present	Geller: Present at 7:09	Goodman: Present
Keenan: Present	King: Present	Monahan: Present	Pietal: Present
Rangarajan: Present	Silverleib: Absent	Wluka: Present	

### Vote to approve minutes

A vote was postponed until the next meeting.

### Establish protocols for contact with other cities/towns

Mr. Keenan provided a summary of information gathered from a Town of Southboro study of 2017. After the last meeting, Mr. Keenan and Mr. Carver had a conversation about the data gathered by Southboro and perhaps they should initiate a discussion with that individual. They concluded that if all eleven members of this group were to go about contacting other communities, there may be duplication of efforts. Thus, the need for creating protocols for doing so.

There was a brief discussion about the Southboro study and civic engagement. Mr. Carver commented that there is an opportunity with respect to outreach for new residents, particularly those coming from other parts of the country or out of the country altogether, about Sharon's governance. The in-person requirement for town meeting is also restrictive. Perhaps speaking with the legislative delegation about the possibility for remote participation may be in order. Ms. Monahan clarified that RTM was able to meet remotely during the pandemic where ATM was not. There are, however, many bills pending with respect to remote participation. Mr. King remarked that meeting remotely for ATM makes verification of residency a challenge.

The discussion returned to the process of soliciting information from other communities. Mr. Pietal suggested that all communications to other communities should go through the Chair to facilitate organization and avoid duplication.

### The Collins Center correspondence

The Collins Center for Public Management sent correspondence to the committee which was forwarded as part of the materials for this meeting. The Collins Center is affiliated with UMass Boston and they specialize in providing comprehensive services to cities, towns, school districts, and state agencies in Massachusetts as well as to a growing number of communities in other states. The Collins Center staff is knowledgeable in the areas of study charged to the committee and could potentially be a useful resource. If the committee chose to engage with the Collins Center, there are grant opportunities that could be pursued.

Mr. Wluka mentioned also that Sharon is a member of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council which may also be a useful resource for the work of this committee.

As the committee supports getting more information, Mr. Keenan advised he would reach out to ask them to attend a future meeting to discuss the services they provide.

### **Liaison assignments**

Mr. Pietal received feedback from a few members on which of the 36 boards or committees they would like to liaise with. Mr. Wluka offered to work with any committee other than planning, conservation, or zoning as he feels he would be conflicted due to the nature of his work.

Discussions centered around what constitutes a subcommittee and whether two members of the Governance Study Committee could attend a meeting with another board. There was also a discussion on how to best begin the process of working with other boards and committees. It was suggested and agreed that an introductory letter be developed as well as the questions which will be asked of each board.

After discussion, Mr. Pietal suggested that he would come up with liaison assignments based on feedback received and tonight's discussion.

### **Subcommittees**

It is assumed that each subcommittee will meet at least once between now and the next meeting on the 18th. It was agreed that each subcommittee would organize at their respective meetings as well. Mr. Pietal advised that he would coordinate the first meeting of the town meeting subcommittee.

### **Other business/action items**

Next meeting is October 18, 2021. Suggested topics should be review and decide on the template for communication with other communities, subcommittee updates, and discussion with the Collins Center and MAPC. Mr. Pietal will put together a tracking sheet for communications. Melissa to discuss with MA Municipal Association communities which have changed their governance structure, those that have investigated and chose not to change.

### **Adjourn**

**MOTION:** To adjourn at 9:10 pm.