

## SHARON GOVERNANCE STUDY COMMITTEE MINUTES

*February 9, 2022*

The meeting of the Sharon Governance Study Committee was called to order at 7:32 pm by Chair Paul Pietal.

### Member attendance

Arguimbau: Present	Carver: Present	Geller: Present	Goodman: Present
Keenan: Present	King: Present	Monahan: Present	Pietal: Present
Wluka: Absent	Rangarajan: Present		

### Subcommittee updates

Mr. Keenan provided an update on the work of the Town Meeting subcommittee. He noted that there were three guests: Marlene Chused, former Town Clerk; Anne Carney, Chair of the previous Governance Study Committee; and Susan Osgood Peck of the 2009 Charter Commission. He provided an overview of their comments.

Mr. King provided an overview of the work of the Boards subcommittee. They spent a lot of time discussing Boards and Committees including the Select Board. He mentioned there are three candidates vying for Select Board at the upcoming election. Mr. King is interested in having the candidates attend a subcommittee meeting to discuss their views on the topics which make up the committee's charge. The subcommittee also discussed the Town's administration.

Mr. Carver had a recent conversation with the Milton Moderator. Milton is a community that recently changed its Select Board from three to five members. Mr. Turkington has agreed to help facilitate conversations with officials from Duxbury and Milton. There was a discussion also about having a conversation with the current members of the Select Board.

### Liaison reports

Mr. Wluka provided an update by email on the status of his meetings with the Board of Health. Mr. Wluka had a discussion with Leandra McLean. She is forwarding material to the members of the Board of Health and Mr. Wluka will attend one of their March meetings.

Mr. Rangarajan provided an update on his meetings with Council on Aging. He reports that they feel well supported. A comment was made about the loss of the Sharon Advocate. In addition, they liked the idea of perhaps a Select Board representative from each precinct.

Mr. Goodman advised that he has met with three members of the School Committee and has a meeting on Friday with another member. The impressions of those members were that the new members of the School Committee have come along well. There was concern about the learning curve of new Board or Committee members. Apathy was also a major topic of discussion. It is felt that many people prefer to do other things with their time than become involved either at Town Meeting or as part of a Board or Committee.

### Committee vacancy

As mentioned at the last meeting, Maureen Silverleib has resigned. Mr. Pietal asked for opinions on whether to fill the vacancy. Ms. Monahan mentioned that she feels having an odd number is prudent for breaking possible tie votes. She further mentioned that there are only two women on the committee and the work of the committee may benefit from the opinions of parents of school-aged children. Mr. Geller mentioned that the appointment should be based on merit.

**MOTION:** To recommend to the Select Board that the departed member of the Governance Study Committee be replaced.  
(Geller - Keenan)  
There was no vote taken.

After a brief discussion, there was an amendment made to the motion.

**AMENDMENT:** with a focus on ensuring that the committee has a broad representation of the population of the town.

Goodman: AYE	Monahan: AYE	King: AYE	Pietal: AYE
Keenan: AYE	Carver: AYE	Geller: AYE	Rangarajan: AYE

(King - Keenan)  
8-o-o **PASSES**

#### **Courtesy copies of agendas posted to website**

Ms. Monahan inquired with Mark Hogan at a previous meeting about the default posting location for meeting notices. Mr. Hogan expressed his desire for the default location to remain as-is due to concerns about power, internet, and website outages. Ms. Monahan expressed that since meetings are happening remotely, people are likely expecting meeting notices to be posted electronically as well and it might be worthy to ask the Select Board to institute a policy whereby all Boards, Committees, and Commissions post a courtesy copy of their meeting notices on the webpage. If so, it may also be worth including subcommittees as well.

**MOTION:** To recommend to the Select Board that the Select Board adopt a policy that requires all Sharon public bodies, including subcommittees, to post courtesy copies of all meeting notices to the Sharon town website in a manner prescribed by the Select Board.

(Monahan - Carver)

Carver: AYE	Monahan: AYE	King: AYE	Pietal: AYE
Keenan: AYE	Goodman: AYE	Geller: AYE	Rangarajan: AYE

8-o-o **PASSES**

#### **Further outreach**

The committee had a discussion regarding social media and the Sharon-specific Facebook pages as viable sources of information or communication.

Mr. Hogan has sent an invitation on behalf of the Committee to the three candidates for Select Board to discuss their views at either a subcommittee meeting or a meeting of the full committee if the committee agrees they would like to do so.

Mr. Turkington is available to speak with the Committee at the next meeting and he will provide some contacts for Milton and Duxbury. The committee shared their thoughts on who else should be contacted to round out their research. Mr. Rangarajan asked what other groups, clubs, or collectives there may be to speak with such as Rotary Club or Lions Club. He's interested in reaching those who haven't yet been contacted. Mr. Goodman mentioned that during his conversations with a member of the school committee, it was brought up that some of the families moving into Town are new to this country and don't know what organizations like the PTO are, or what they do. The same may be said as they are likely not familiar with or trustful of local government. Mr. Carver explained that the Town of Winchester has produced a video that explains that very thing. They have Representative Town Meeting form of government but it may be worthwhile to have the committee review it. He also mentioned speaking with the Town Clerks, Town Moderators, and the Legislative Delegation.

Mr. Rangarajan mentioned that there is an Indian Association of Sharon, a Chinese Association of Sharon, an Islamic Society, as well as faith based groups. If anyone has any connections to these groups, they should reach out. Mr. Keenan mentioned that a contact of his from North Attleboro sent some 200 odd letters to maybe

town officials, but reaching out directly by mail to invite groups to a forum may be an effective way to reach people as well.

#### **Topics not anticipated with 48 hours of posting**

The next meeting will be held on March 2 due to school vacation. Mr. Turkington will attend as a guest and an invitation will be extended to the candidates for Select Board.

#### **Adjourn**

Seeing no further business to come before the committee, Mr. Pietal adjourned the meeting at 8:53 pm.