

## SHARON GOVERNANCE STUDY COMMITTEE MINUTES

June 22, 2022

The Sharon Governance Study Committee meeting was called to order at 7:33 pm by Chair Paul Pietal. Mr. Pietal observed a moment of silence in honor of the passing of Mr. Geller's son Jake.

### Member attendance

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

### Results of public forum

The committee discussed the results of the public forum. There were around 50 people who attended the meeting either in person or online. The committee was pleased with the feedback received. Some of the topics brought up were communication, which was discussed by the Select Board at their meeting last night, as well as the possibility of an informational meeting before Town Meeting and removal options/criterion for elected officials. Another interesting point brought up by Mr. Blaszkowsky was the concept of an ombudsman for answers to resident questions about Town business.

Mr. Pietal mentioned that perhaps the Boards Subcommittee may have an interest in having Bill Heitin attend a meeting to discuss the 3 or 5-member Select Board now that he is no longer a current member of that Board. Perhaps other former Select Board members as well like Norman Katz, Colleen Tuck, or Rich Powell.

### Subcommittee updates

There were no updates from subcommittees but there was a discussion about beginning deliberations. Ms. Monahan shared the timeline which was developed previously. The committee agreed that their next meeting would take place on July 20. In the meantime, the subcommittees would work to bring some deliberation to the full committee.

### Liaison updates

Ms. Arguimbau heard from the Planning Board who have returned a written document which will be uploaded to the drive for the committee to review. The members of the Board have commented that the absence of a newspaper in Town is a detriment.

### MAPC Update

MAPC sent slides that Mr. Pietal shared. These slides outlined a potential scope of work. Mr. Mark Fine and Mr. Brian Luther attended the meeting and, after hearing the post-mortem of the forum, feel that there are specific areas where they can put their focus such as removal and code of conduct, improving Town Meeting, and a possible new issue of a local voting option for non-citizen residents.

MAPC shared their project timeline. It was explained that this was developed before learning that the committee had developed one, but they can be flexible and work within the committee's timeline. The methods proposed would be interviews by MAPC with Town Officials, feedback on the survey, and a peer community review. Mr. Fine and Mr. Luther feel that they can enhance work already done by subcommittees.

MAPC will return on July 20 and report to the full committee based on the research they gathered tonight.

### **Finalize online survey**

Mr. Rangarajan provided an update on the status of the survey. He explained that the committee has control of a portion of the web address. The committee discussed when the survey will go live and how to broadcast it. The possibility of a process by which postcards are mailed to the postal customers was discussed as well as the budget implications of doing so. Mr. Rangarajan mentioned he would reach out to the moderators of the Sharon-based Facebook groups. An email will be drafted for distribution to the email addresses used in the last communication about the public forum. Paper copies of the survey will be collected at Town Hall, Community Center, Adult Center, and Library.

**MOTION:** To send a postcard to all Sharon residents, subject to Select Board funding approval.  
(Arguimbau- Geller)

Arguimbau: AYE  
Keenan: AYE  
8-o- **PASSES**

Carver: AYE  
King: AYE

Geller: AYE  
Rangarajan: AYE

Goodman: AYE  
Pietal: AYE

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

None

### **Adjourn**

Seeing no other business to come before the committee, Mr. Rangarajan adjourned the meeting at 9:34 pm.