

## **Imagine Sharon May 30, 2019 Public Meeting #3**

**7:00 – 9:00 PM**

**Sharon Community Center, 219 Massapoag Avenue**

### **Summary**

The meeting was opened by Pasqualino Pannone, co-chair of the Sharon Master Plan Steering Committee (MPSC). He thanked everyone for coming and pointed out the other MPSC members in attendance and turned the meeting over to CivicMoxie, the MPSC's planning consultant team.

Susan Silberberg from CivicMoxie, the planning consultant assisting the MPSC and Planning Board, introduced team members from CivicMoxie and reviewed the purpose of the Master Plan being the opportunity to create a comprehensive long-range vision for the town's future with goals and recommendations.

Silberberg provided an overview of the draft Master Plan components and highlighted the draft goals for each Plan Element, which include: Cultural and Historic Resources, Economic Vitality, Housing, Land Use and Zoning, Open Space, Recreation, and Natural Resources, Public Facilities and Infrastructure, Transportation and Mobility, and Community Health. (See the Imagine Sharon public meeting #3 presentation, available for download at:

[www.townofsharon.net/sites/sharonma/files/uploads/20190530\\_sharon\\_presentation\\_mtg\\_3\\_final.pdf](http://www.townofsharon.net/sites/sharonma/files/uploads/20190530_sharon_presentation_mtg_3_final.pdf))

Silberberg also gave an example of how the Town and Sharon community could use the Master Plan with concrete "start-up" steps.

### **Brief Questions + Answers/ Comments following the presentation:**

- Generally, towns similar in size to Sharon have a town planner. Assuming that having a planner would help move the master plan forward, that should be one of the first priority recommendations.
- Along with a town planner, having a sustainability coordinator and perhaps a grants writer would also help implement recommendations.
- Sharon's motto: "A better place to live because its naturally beautiful." Worried about possible industrialization and impacts of a sewer system on development. Response: Draft goals refer to potential commercial growth within areas already zoned and used for industrial and/or commercial use where the land is underutilized, and not within residential or conservation areas. When the Master Plan refers to "industries" it is not talking about heavy industry but rather, business types, and references to light industrial do not include heavy industry but to business uses already allowed by Sharon zoning.
- Are there zoning changes recommended? Response: Draft recommendations include studying if other existing commercial areas might be appropriate for the type of mixed-use overlay in Post Office Square and considering if/where Accessory Dwelling Units (in-law units) could be allowed in town in order to accommodate requests for more housing options for seniors who wish to stay in the community and younger residents wishing to stay.

- The Master Plan should include recommendations to increase and ensure accessibility for all ages and abilities in public facilities, including buildings, parks, and trails. Also, services, such as transportation options, should be expanded as needs increase.

## **Mobile Stations and Next Steps**

Silberberg provided a brief explanation of the Mobile Stations portion of the meeting. There was a station for each Plan Element that included boards with the Draft goals and recommendations for each element. Several draft goals and recommendations are cross-category and are found under more than one element. Participants at the meeting were invited to fill out comment sheets and hand them in at the meeting or write them on the large sheets on the tables.

## **Public Comments on Draft Goals and Recommendations**

The MPSC welcomes public comments on the Draft Goals and Recommendations, which are posted on the Town website for reference ([www.townofsharon.net/planning-board/master-plan-steering-committee/slideshows/may-30th-public-meeting](http://www.townofsharon.net/planning-board/master-plan-steering-committee/slideshows/may-30th-public-meeting)). Public Comments on the Draft Goals and Recommendations will be accepted through **Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup>**.

Comments can be mailed or dropped off at:

Sharon Department of Public Works  
Attn: Susan Price  
217 S. Main Street  
Sharon, MA 02067

or emailed to the MPSC at [ImagineSharon@townofsharon.org](mailto:ImagineSharon@townofsharon.org).

CivicMoxie and the MPSC anticipates the completion of the Imagine Sharon Master Plan by late June/early July with future meetings with related Boards, Committees, and Commissions occurring through the summer and fall.