

Town of Sharon Planning Board
Minutes of 3/24/16
Approved on 4/7/16
Sharon Community Center
Filmed by SCTV

Planning Board	
Ben Pinkowitz, Chair	Peter O'Cain. Town Engineer - absent
David Blaszkowsky - absent	Lance Delpriore, Assistant Town Engineer - absent
Shannon McLaughlin	Rob Maidman
Pat Pannone	

Other Attendees

Chery Weinstein- Library Board of Trustees	
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Meeting Initiation

Chair Pinkowitz called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM and read the Chair's Report.

Meeting Minutes

Mr. Pannone moved to approve the minutes of 2/25/16. Ms. McLaughlin seconded the motion. The Board voted 4-0-0 in favor of approval.

Accessory Housing

Mr. Maidman stated that in the last year, three special permits were requested/granted for accessory housing. The COA is launching a needs assessment which will include a question on who might be interested in remaining in their home over the next 3-5 years. Three thousand questionnaires are being mailed in hopes of receiving a 10% response back. Based on the responses the Board can decide if zoning laws should be changed or procedures streamlined for this process and if it should be more publicized. The mailing is being sent in mid-April. By end of June the results should be analyzed.

Master Plan

Mr. Pannone and Ms. McLaughlin, Co-chairs of the Master Plan Project prepared a handout/summary document to outline the typical goals of a Master Plan, the benefits of going through the Master Plan process and the associated Planning Board initiatives as relates to this project. Ms. McLaughlin reviewed the handout and a conversation ensued. She said they have spoken to other surrounding towns regarding their plans and the Foxboro Planner would like to come and speak to Sharon regarding the project, cost and process.

Mr. Pannone stated that the Master Plan is a snapshot in time and from that point on what are the longer term goals and how do we get there. Timelines need to be developed, not just use historical data. Mr. Pannone also said that Ralph Willmer of MAPC perhaps could come and speak to the Board as well. The Planning Board already has the open space and recreation plan, beginnings of a master plan, a housing plan, and economic development plan but now need to figure out where we want to go and make sure we are trending in the right direction.

Also handed out to the Board was “Creating a Master Plan for Your Community” prepared for Citizen Planner Training Collaborative by Ralph Willmer of the MAPC and provided to the Board by Susan Price.

Mr. Maidman asked if there is financial support for developing the plan and Ms. McLaughlin replied that grants are very modest.

Library Board of Trustees

Cheryl Weinstein from the Library Board of Trustees attended the meeting. This topic was not known to the Chair 24 hours in advance and thus not on the original agenda. She said that the library has a planning and design grant to build a new library but requires specific parking requirements. A conversation ensued. It needs to be determined if this issue should go through the Planning Board or other boards to help create parking.

Solar Arrays and potential sites

Mr. Pannone brought up the topic of solar arrays and potential sites. A brief conversation ensued.

Adjournment

Mr. Pinkowitz moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM and Mr. Pannone seconded the motion. The Board voted 4-0-0 in favor of adjournment.

Future Scheduled Meeting

4/28 Additional meetings to be scheduled.