

Town of Sharon
Governance Study Committee
Subcommittee for Review of Boards

Meeting Minutes

December 13, 2021, Monday, 8:00pm

Location: Zoom

Present: Sarah Monahan, Paul Pietal, Ronald Goodman, David Wluka, Phillip King

Not present: n/a

Call to Order – 8:04pm Philip King, Chair

Continue discussion on options to collect data from Sharon residents

Sharon resident Michelle Shain was present. Paul Pietal explained the committee's charge. Michelle explained survey construction and data collection strategies. For example, she asked who the committee wants to hear from – every adult, everyone who lives in Town, citizens, adult citizens? Phillip King responded people who are eligible to vote in Sharon. Michelle explained that most people in Town likely don't know we have a Select Board and fewer would know there are 3 members. Whether there should be 3 or 5 Select Board members is something to ask people involved in Town. Questions to ask of broader group: did you vote? Why/why not? Ask questions to engage these people. We can present information to broad group including pros/cons and ask which they prefer. She noted that how many Select Board members we need will best come from experts who study this. Asking everyone won't give us this information. It will give us something, and is this information we want it? Michelle continued – do we have funding to learn what people in Sharon think of Town government. Pietal commented that we recently presented update to Select Board and noted we may need money. Michelle suggested inexpensive solution – Survey Monkey would be \$400 to send and we could use various list serves (Schools, Library, rec center, Council on Aging, DPW). A mailing would cost money and would reach those without internet. More people respond if there is an incentive - \$5 Amazon gift card, for example. We would need to do cognitive testing (walk some people through the survey, does it make sense, are the questions comfortable, etc.); also need nonresponse bias – a breakdown of households, race, gender, etc.; women are more responsive to surveys.

David Wluka said MAPC will be at our next full committee meeting and suggested Michelle attend. MAPC told Wluka our committee is trying to recreate information that is already available.

Thank you to Michelle who left zoom 8:57pm.

Minutes

Ron Goodman motion to approve 11/16/21 minutes as corrected. Wluka 2nd. 5-0-0

Correspondence

None

Process to request budget during upcoming annual cycle to conduct survey

Pietal, at full committee update to Select Board, mentioned that our committee may need money.

OML requirements and the process for posting agendas

Sarah Monahan noted the physical notification at Town Clerk's office is the default location for posting agendas. The Select Board can vote to make the Town website the official notice location. Should we recommend to Select Board that the website be the comprehensive location?

This matter relates to official notice if any discrepancies exist between posted notice at Town Clerk's office and Town's website.

Monahan will look into difficulties re: posting online v. paper.

Report from Maureen and David on meeting with MAPC

MAPC will be at Governance Study Committee's Wednesday December 15 meeting. They have funding available with grant applications due in February. MAPC recently completed a Dedham governance study.

Future Meetings

Next meeting of this subcommittee – either January 5, 2022 or January 12, 2022 depending upon which is chosen by the full committee at its 12/15/21 meeting. This subcommittee will meet January 5, 2022 if full committee chooses neither of these dates. 8pm start.

Topics not anticipated within 48 hours

None

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned 9:26pm.