

**Town of Sharon
Master Plan Steering Committee
Minutes of 4/9/19
Sharon Community Center**

MPSC

Pasqualino Pannone
Signe Flieger
Laura Smead
Peg Arguimbau
Chuck Levine
Susan Drisko

Town

Susan Price

CivicMoxie

Susan Silberberg (via phone)

Guests

Ed Krent
Eli Blumen
Asma Hydari

Discussion

Silberberg introduced the discussion and wanted the MPSC to choose three or four main topics for CivicMoxie to prepare a "deep dive," in-depth implementation strategy. Silberberg proposed three sample priority items for this:

- 1) Recommendation to increase capacity by hiring a planner or staff person (full or part-time, planner and/or grant writer)
- 2) Create septic and sewer capacity to foster economic development and appropriate mixed-use development; an organization to support businesses and economic development
- 3) A goal or recommendation from Arts, Cultural, and Historic Resources or Public Facilities and Infrastructure, i.e., better utilize existing buildings and physical spaces for arts and culture and multi-use community spaces in town.

Silberberg asked the MPSC to consider which items are priorities, which are difficult to get started, which items need to be jumpstarted. She said these will have more details for next steps.

MPSC members agreed that a planner would be helpful for overseeing the implementation of the plan and for applying for grants. Pannone noted that hiring a planner would support most of the goals of the Master Plan. Levine said that there is no planning in Sharon, just a lot of isolated groups. Pannone asked what is the counter argument to the "we're done developing" mentality in town. Smead said the planner would need to be a department head and report directly to the Town Administrator.

Regarding septic, Silberberg said to start by updating the map and data for P.O. Square, contact owners and look at capacity needed, resume the conversation with Temple Israel, research available grants. Smead noted that Easton had a similar situation with septic and established a public-private partnership for septic/sewer that spurred economic development (started with an Avalon project).

Regarding arts and community character, Pannone said it would be nice to have signage moments around town with history outside rather than just inside of a building. Krent noted some projects he did in other towns to present "history on display." Smead liked the idea of community art.

Price asked whether CivicMoxie had considered other topics such as aging in community. Silberberg said no.

Price noted that between what CivicMoxie had put in their drafts and what the MPSC could come up with to support the idea of hiring a planner, this issue may not be one on which the consultant needs to focus.

Silberberg had to hang up (leave the meeting).

Arguimbau noted the importance of water supply, both quantity and quality.

Smead asked about stormwater and noted that there are municipal vulnerability and resiliency grants.

Other issues the MPSC discussed included: agro/eco-tourism, a business support group, zoning for business and industrial districts, accessory dwelling zoning, and town communication. Flieger asked whether the MPSC could see what an example of another town's deep dive by the consultant would look like.

The MPSC came up with these items:

1. Septic (not just in Post Office Square but other business areas too)
2. Economic Development/Vitality (including things such as a business support group and zoning - not just in Post Office Square but other business areas too)
3. Arts/Culture/Community
4. Aging in Community (including housing choice, mobility/transportation).

Minutes

Review and approve meeting minutes of March 12, 2019. Levine motioned to approve and Drisko seconded. All voted in favor of approval.

Public Health Subcommittee update.

Flieger said the Subcommittee met on March 15th with Barry Keppard and his revised draft is expected on Thursday.

Open Space

Arguimbau shared the draft "Goals and Objectives" from the Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Next meeting dates

May 14th, May 30th, June 18th

Adjournment

Drisko motioned to adjourn and Rich seconded. Meeting adjourned 9 PM.