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*By Linda Amerighi at 10:20 am, Jun 21, 2022*

Sharon ARPA Advisory Committee  
May 4, 2022 Meeting Minutes

*Draft until approved at the next regular meeting*

The Sharon ARPA Advisory Committee held a regular meeting at 6:30pm on Wednesday, May 4, 2022. It was a hybrid in-person at Town Hall and Zoom meeting.

**Committee Attendees:**

*(in person)*

Jill Drew

Tom Bartram

Barbara Prindle

Carol Flaton

Sophia Wang

*(on Zoom)*

Doug Cahill

Meghan Flanagan

Casey Flanagan (ex-officio)

**Public Attendees:**

Melia Hill

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.
2. The proposed meeting agenda was approved after accepting the suggestion of Carol Flaton to switch items 3 and 4 on the Agenda.
3. Minutes of the April 18 meeting were approved as amended, to note the next meeting was on Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at 6:30PM.
4. Public Comment: None.
5. Discussion of overall recommendations for first wave of applications for Board of Selectmen action. After a robust discussion in which several members of the committee said they were not comfortable with the summaries of the deliberations Jill had prepared in a March 22 memo and attached documents for the Board of Selectmen, committee members expressed support for sending a new memo that would update the March 22 memo to report the actions of the committee, and to include the number of total applications received as of May 4, the total amount of ARPA funding requested, and the total amount the committee believes qualified under the ARPA guidelines. A consensus also emerged that, as the committee moves forward with new application reviews, the committee should ask the Selectmen about what parts of the committee process they found helpful and what parts might be discontinued.
6. Discuss individual Application Review Forms forwarded to the Board of Selectmen. In a wide-ranging discussion, a consensus emerged that the committee should tell the Selectmen to disregard the "committee vote" tally on the applications and the "amount recommended" in the summaries sent on March 22. Going forward, committee members said they would be more comfortable not recommending any amount of funding, but just to report

the amount requested. Carol Flaton expressed concern that there was no yardstick with which to measure what was a reasonable amount. Some non-profits asked for \$5,000 and some asked for \$50,000. She noted and Jill agreed that the summary Jill prepared for the Housatonic Youth Services Bureau, which requested \$60,000, was incorrect in saying that the amount "recommended" was \$25,000 when the actual recommendation voted on at that meeting had been a range of \$15,000-\$30,000. The summary also did not include the information that some members wanted the Selectmen to be sure other towns also contributed. Melia Hill reported that the amount in the application for Individual Two should be revised to return it to the original \$5,000 applied for. The committee agreed to direct the Selectmen to Individual Two's original application for an explanation of the person's needs.

Barbara Prindle asked what would happen to the Chore Services and Hooperfields Internet applications that had been recently received. Jill said the committee would tell the Selectmen that the two organizations had applied, but was unsure until the committee hears back from the Selectmen whether to bring the two applicants in for a committee meeting. Selectman Casey Flanagan said he found the committee sessions asking questions of the applicants to be helpful.

7. No other new business.

8. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill Drew