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By Linda Amerighi at 9:03 am, May 20, 2022

Sharon ARPA Advisory Committee
May 16, 2022 Meeting Minutes
Draft until approved at the next regular meeting

The Sharon ARPA Advisory Committee held a regular meeting at 4:30pm on Monday, May 16, 2022. It was a hybrid in-person at Town Hall and Zoom meeting.

Attendees:

(in person)

Barbara Prindle

Tom Bartram

Carol Flaton

Jill Drew

(on Zoom)

Doug Cahill

Donna DiMartino

Gretchen Hachmeister

1. Minutes for May 4th will be provided at the next meeting along with May 16th minutes
2. Motion made and seconded to approve the Agenda as distributed
3. No public comment
4. New Applications
 - a. Chore Service – presentation by Patricia Chamberlain, a member of the Chore board
 - i. COVID initially shut down Chore Service. They applied and received PPP loans, two years in a row (totaling about \$110k), which helped sustain them and allowed them to pay employees.
 - ii. The main annual fundraiser was virtual last year but this year will be in-person.
 - iii. Expenses increased because of COVID protocols. That elevated process and level of protocol will not reduce anytime soon (at least in 2022).
 - iv. Chore expects more people will be reaching out for services, given the increasing cost of living and the fact that Chore offers a sliding scale fee and serves anyone, regardless of ability to pay.
 - v. Barbara Prindle enquired whether Chore Service has asked all 7 towns that it serves for a contribution from ARPA monies. Patricia was not sure but knew that several of the town had indeed been asked and that Cornwall had contributed.
 - b. Hooperfields Drive Group (high-speed internet) – presentation by Doug Cahill
 - i. When subdivision was built the utility lines were direct-buried, no utility poles or conduit installed or available for new cables.

- ii. Residents have access to Frontier or AT&T internet and Hughes Net Satellite (too slow to support streaming content/working from home). Some have Starlink, which is good for TV streaming, but Doug said it's problem to both watch TV and simultaneously work online.
- iii. He believes the estimate includes at least 15 homes (Hooperfields & West Meadow) and includes direct lines to each house (not just to the curb)
- iv. Application is being submitted by a subset of the residents. At this moment not all residents on the road have been contacted to be part of this application.
- v. Jill Drew described how this request fits with Comcast and what they are saying about a project to extend service to Sharon roads like Hooperfields.

5. New Business

- a. Barbara Prindle asked what will happen with new applications (these two for example) as it relates to process for the Board of Selectman. Jill said the two applications discussed tonight have been added to the master list. She will ask the BoS if they wish to consider applications like these that came in after the first wave on a case-by-case basis or if they wish to set a deadline for a second wave.
 - b. The BoS will discuss the ARPA applications already the committee has already forwarded to them on May 24th, as the last item on the Agenda for its regular meeting.
6. Next ARPA meeting: June 1st meeting intended to be cancelled unless new applications are received/new business in the interim. The next meeting will be (as scheduled) on June 20th, 2022 at 4:30pm.
7. Meeting was adjourned at 5:07pm