

RECEIVED

By Linda Amerighi at 9:56 am, Jun 23, 2022

Sharon ARPA Advisory Committee
June 20, 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, June 20, 2022. It was a hybrid in-person at Town Hall and Zoom meeting.

Attendees:

(in person)

Barbara Prindle

Tom Bartram

Jill Drew

Brent Colley (ex officio)

(on Zoom)

Donna DiMartino

Melia Hill

1) The meeting was called to order at 4:30pm.

2) The Agenda was approved with 1 item added under New Business:

- discussion of the need for a new secretary

3) Minutes of the 5/4/22 ARPA meeting were approved with one amendment: fix the error in item 6 in which the words "to Selectmen" were repeated. Minutes of the 5/16/22 ARPA meeting were approved with one amendment: add that the Minutes were prepared and submitted by Carol Flaton.

4) Public comment: There was no public comment

5) Resignation Letters: The letters of resignation of Carol Flaton and Sophia Wang were accepted with a motion made and seconded to accept them with regret and to thank them for their participation.

6) Letter of Thanks was received from the Silver Lake Shores Association. All had reviewed it.

7) New Applications: (See video from 27:25-41:10 for discussion.) There was one new individual application that was reviewed with questions asked. The committee members agreed the application met the Treasury criteria for funding. The committee agreed to forward the application immediately to the Board of Selectmen and asked Sharon Social Services Director Melia Hill to obtain a list of specific bills that would be paid with ARPA money to provide to the Selectmen to aid in their decision.

There was also a discussion about whether ARPA committee should apply for funding on behalf of the town to purchase a dedicated laptop for the hybrid videoconferencing system and to hire a technology consultant to advise the town on how to install the equipment more permanently

at Town Hall. Committee members agreed that Jill Drew would research the ideas and present a draft application at the next ARPA Advisory meeting.

8) Discussion of the first rounds of applications: First Selectman Brent Colley said the process thus far has worked well. He appreciated the committee's work in creating a standard application form that each applicant is required to submit to begin the process, organizing those applications, determining if they fit the Treasury ARPA criteria for funding, meeting in a public forum with each applicant to allow for committee and public questions, recording and posting video of committee meetings to allow for anyone to review, and providing summaries of the applications that included the time markers to find each discussion on the videos. He agreed that the committee did not need to recommend specific amounts to the Board of Selectmen, but said that it was appropriate for committee members to ask questions about the amounts applied for, especially because it could help the applicants better clarify their funding needs. There was discussion about whether the committee should set a deadline for new applications and then send them in a second wave to the Selectmen, but it was determined that the committee would send new applications to the Selectmen as its work is complete, especially because the number of new applications has dwindled. It was suggested that individual applications, in particular, should be forwarded as soon as the committee's work is complete, as those applicants are usually of a need for immediate assistance. The committee decided to keep its schedule of twice-a-month meetings, but noted that some of those may be cancelled if there are no new applications to review.

9) Other new business: It was decided to advertise for a new secretary.

10) There was unanimous approval of a motion to adjourn and the meeting concluded at 5:25 pm.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, July 6, 2022 at 6:30PM

Respectfully submitted,
Donna DiMartino and Jill Drew