

RECEIVED

By Linda Amerighi at 12:53 pm, Nov 09, 2021

Sharon ARPA Advisory Committee
November 03, 2021 Meeting Minutes
Draft until approved at the next regular meeting

A regular meeting of the Sharon ARPA Advisory Committee was held in person at Town Hall and on Zoom at 6:30PM.

Attendees:

In person at Town Hall

Tom Bartram

Jill Drew

Carol Flaton

Donna DiMartino

Doug Cahill

Melia Hill

Sophia Wang

Harrison Ungar, HYSB

Kelly Parker, HYSB

On Zoom

Gretchen Hachmeister

Tom Casey

Nancy Bird, HYSB board member

Bonnie Bellow, HYSB board vice president

Roger Liddell, Sharon Energy and

Environment Commission board member

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.
- 2) The agenda was approved with 3 items added under New Business:
 - discussion of ARPA meeting schedule for 2022
 - introduce and welcome Sharon's new Social Service Agent
 - discussion of public comment format
- 3) Minutes of the ARPA meeting 10/18/21 were approved with one amendment (remove the name of the new secretary for privacy reasons).
- 4) Public comment: Harrison Ungar, Kelly Parker, Nancy Bird and Bonnie Bellow from Housatonic Youth Service Bureau were invited to speak when agenda item 7 was brought forward, consideration of HYSB's funding application. Roger Liddell was invited to speak at the end of the meeting, as he wished to offer comments on an item not on the agenda.
- 5) Update from recent Board of Selectmen meeting. BOS reviewed ARPA outreach effort with the following feedback:
 - BOS approved proposal to set January 15 as the initial deadline for receiving assistance applications;
 - BOS practiced running a hybrid in-person and online meeting, satisfied with the video conference equipment made available on loan and is interested in getting this system installed in the meeting room;
 - BOS liked the timing of the initial January 15 application deadline, as it fits into the town budget cycle. If there are needs identified that do not meet ARPA requirements, the BOS can consider addressing those needs through the town budget.

6) Initial response to ARPA survey: 35 received online, 2 received on paper. No individual assistance applications received yet. Nov. 30 is the deadline for survey responses. Jill will try to get Spanish language survey ready to make available next week.

7) Discussion on whether ARPA should recommend to the BOS to purchase the current video conference system on loan. After a lengthy discussion, the committee decided to gather more information about a system used at Salisbury Bank to compare it before making any recommendation.

7) Housatonic Youth Service Bureau submitted an application and additional material in support of its funding request. HYSB Executive Director Kelly Parker gave a quick introduction of HYSB and answered questions about the application. Board members Nancy Bird and Bonnie Bellow spoke in support of the application. The committee agreed to further discuss the application at the next meeting.

8) There were no additional applications received or new ideas to discuss.

9) In other towns: Jill said the town of Kent may do a survey similar to ours.

10) Tina wants to have the schedule of all ARPA meetings for the full 2022. It was decided to keep the meetings on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm but to poll committee members to see if it would be possible to change the time of the meeting on the third Monday of the month to 4:30 pm. Jill will reach out to each committee member to confirm and then send the new schedule to Tina.

11) Jill welcomed the new Sharon Social Service Agent, Melia Hill, to the committee and introduced the new secretary.

12) Discussion about public comment period: Jill asked if ARPA meetings should have two rounds of public comment or one. Tom suggested that we ask the BOS about its procedure, as the committee is effectively a BOS subcommittee.

13) Roger Liddell asked if ARPA money could help fund a new ventilation system at the elementary school. The committee agreed to explore this suggestion.

14) There was unanimous approval of a motion to adjourn and the meeting concluded at 8:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sophia Wang