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By Linda Amerighi at 10:01 am, Apr 26, 2024

Long Range Planning Committee

Draft until approved at the next regular meeting

A special meeting of the Long-Range Planning Committee was held on April 24, 2024 at 6:00pm at Town Hall and via Zoom. Present were Tom Casey, Betsy Hall, Robert Lindgren, Tom Gibb, Michael Levengood, Ed Yowell, Grace Schalkwyk, Meg Szalewicz, Rich Baumann, Pam Jarvis, First Selectman Casey Flanagan, Selectman Lynn Kearcher, Selectman John Brett, via Zoom: Carol Flaton, David Moore, Donna DiMartino, and Linda Quella.

First Selectman Casey Flanagan called the meeting to order at 6:11pm.

The attendees introduced themselves and gave some brief background information explaining their experience in Sharon.

The charge of the committee was discussed. Casey explained that the LRPC has no authority or power instead the committee reports findings to the town Selectmen. He suggested in the process of obtaining information the committee should consult with the various boards and commissions that do have authority in a particular area.

The group were referred to a document: The Town Plan of Conservation and Development originally produced in 2006 and reviewed in 2016. This document identifies broad areas of focus relevant to Sharon that may help guide this committee in the early stages. This document is on the town website.

(https://www.sharonct.org/sites/g/files/vyhlf4991/f/pages/town_plan000.pdf) There are limited editions available at the Town Hall.

Meg Szalewicz read the Mission of the group who produced the previous document: "The Town of Sharon Long Range Planning Committee will act in an advisory capacity to the Selectmen of Sharon and will evaluate and prioritize immediate and long-range issues for the Town of Sharon. She suggested this might be a starting spot as the group begins to meet. Lynn Kearcher has reviewed the actual minutes of the meetings and believes these are also of value. Selectman Kearcher offered to summarize meeting minutes from the past iterations of the LRPC and distribute to the members prior to their next meeting.

Casey Flanagan had asked each member to identify three things that they feel are important to the town. John Brett suggested the group might identify three things that most see as priorities. Others suggested the committee start by doing an assessment more broadly and then narrow the focus down.

Donna DiMartino offered to serve as the chairperson and Robert Lindgren offered to serve as the vice-chairperson of the committee. The members were appreciative for their willingness to volunteer for these positions. The secretary position was left unfilled.

The committee tentatively agreed to plan on meeting once a month, with adjustments made as needed. Regular meetings of the entire committee will be hybrid to allow broad participation.

The next meeting will be May 15th at 5:30pm.

With nothing further, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm.

Respectfully submitted

First Selectman Casey Flanagan

Donna DiMartino