

**Sharon Selectboard  
Town Plan Readoption Hearing  
Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
DRAFT Minutes**

*This meeting was held in compliance with the January 2022 VT Open Meeting law amendments regarding fully-remote electronic meetings.*

Attending via Zoom: Kevin Gish, Chair; Mary Gavin, Vice-Chair; Sarah Pfeiffer, Clerk; Nicola Shipman, Selectboard Assistant; Ira Clark, Planning Commission; Ken Wright, Lister/Delinquent Tax Collector; Sue Sellew, Planning Commission

1. **Call to Order:** Kevin Gish called the meeting to order at 6:31PM.

2. **Review/Approve Agenda:**

Mary Gavin made a motion to approve the agenda as modified with two additions to the agenda to include the appointment of the Animal Control Officer and a discussion of administrative roles in the town. Sarah Pfeiffer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3. **Approve Minutes: 2/17, 2/21, 2/22**

**Mary Gavin made a motion to approve the minutes from 2/17/2022. Kevin Gish seconded. Motion passed 2-0-1 with Kevin Gish and Mary Gavin in favor and Sarah Pfeiffer abstaining.**

**Mary Gavin made a motion to approve the minutes from 2/21/2022. Kevin Gish seconded. Motion passed 2-0-1 with Kevin Gish and Mary Gavin in favor and Sarah Pfeiffer abstaining.**

**Kevin Gish made a motion to approve the minutes from 2/22/2022 with changes as noted. Mary Gavin seconded. Motion passed 2-0-1 with Kevin Gish and Mary Gavin in favor and Sarah Pfeiffer abstaining.**

4. **Approve Warrants:**

None

5. **Public Comments:**

No public comments

6. **Finance Manager Reports:** No reports

## 7. PUBLIC HEARING – TOWN PLAN READOPTION

Kevin Gish noted that the purpose of the hearing is to allow the public to weigh in on the proposed re adoption of the 2015 Town Plan.

Ira Clark confirmed that 2015 Town Plan expired, so the Planning Commission is currently operating without that document. The 2022 Town Plan will be available later this year, but the Planning Commission received guidance that the Town should readopt the 2015 plan in the meantime.

He reminded the Selectboard that there is a new town plan in the works for adoption in 2022 and, while there are no major concerns with the 2015 plan, certain information will be expanded to comply with some state goals for more thorough information in the Town Plan and the plan will benefit from the inclusion of more recent census information.

Mary Gavin shared that in 2015 the expectation was that the 2015 Town Plan would be updated in 2020 but the pandemic stressed the resources of the town and the re adoption was inadvertently delayed. Mary also noted that state law has since changed and plans adopted after July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 will now expire every eight years unless readopted.

Sue Sellew agreed that it is important to readopt the Town Plan until the revised plan is available.

The Planning Commission made the recommendation to readopt the 2015 plan without changes at the February 7<sup>th</sup> Selectboard Meeting. The Selectboard hosted today's hearing as a first step toward the mandated procedure for Town Plan re adoption. The Selectboard agreed that the next step is to approve the Plan at the next Selectboard meeting in order for the plan to be readopted.

Ken Wright wanted to inspire a proactive attitude about affordable housing in the consideration of the town plan going forward. Ken also wanted the town to consider possibilities for improved town water and/or sewer as a way forward to allow for higher population density. Ken also wondered where the Planning Commission might look for possible higher-density housing in Sharon.

Mary Gavin asked if there are dwellings in town that might benefit from energy efficiency support maybe in the effort to create more affordable housing by reducing the energy costs for the building owner.

There was some discussion on how to improve access to affordable housing in the town.

Ira Clark asked about the use of ARPA fundings and if public septic was suggested as a possible use for the funds? Mary Gavin and Kevin Gish both agreed that it was on the list of ideas.

Kevin Gish said that the Selectboard's consideration of the Town Plan Readoption will be added to the March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022 meeting.

#### **8. Appointees:**

Mary Gavin made a motion to approve Damon Dyer as the Animal Control Officer for the Town of Sharon effective March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022 with a term to be defined at a later date. Sarah Pfeiffer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **9. Administrative Positions in Town:**

There was some discussion regarding the Planning Commission Administrative support position that is needed. The position is somewhat difficult to fill as it is more technical and requires someone who can assist with subdivision applications in addition to attending Planning Commission meetings and providing administrative support. Mary Gavin suggested that Deb Jones review the job description and post the position. Mary Gavin also suggested that perhaps an RFP could be created in order to find a technical writer to assist with the backlog of Planning Commission work as there has been an increase in subdivision applications.

Mary Gavin shared that Nicole Antal was originally hired to complete the town report and to assist with organizing the town website. Mary suggested that the Selectboard should also consider implementing a social media policy. As far as Nicole's role for the town, Mary suggested that Nicole could continue to provide support for the website and for the Social Media policy. Nicola Shipman suggested that given she is new to her role, the town would benefit from having a fact-check of the Town website to ensure all information is accurate. Mary Gavin will speak with Nicole Antal about assisting with a Social Media Policy and asked Nicola Shipman to coordinate efforts with Nicole Antal regarding the fact-check and drafting a Social Media Policy.

#### **10. Adjourn:**

Mary Gavin made a motion to adjourn at 7:38PM. Sarah Pfeiffer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by Nicola Shipman