

**MINUTES
SHARON SELECT BOARD**

June 7, 2022

The meeting of the Sharon Select Board was called to order at 5:00 pm by Select Board Chair, Hanna Switekowski virtually by Zoom. Select Board members Emily Smith-Lee and Kiana Pierre-Louis were in attendance as was Town Administrator Frederic E. Turkington, Jr. and Assistant Town Administrator, Lauren Barnes. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board/Committee Interviews – Charlotte Pototsky, Student candidate for DEIC

Ms. Charlotte Pototsky introduced herself to the Board. Ms. Pototsky had an opportunity to discuss any goals or objectives she might have with the work of the DEI Committee. She felt that she would like to see more diverse representation throughout Sharon. In her spare time, Charlotte likes to learn new things and memorize random facts as well as hanging out with friends. She also plays the guitar and is involved with the GSA at school.

The Board agreed that as this position has been vacant for an extended period and Charlotte is the only candidate to apply, they feel comfortable with making an appointment at this meeting.

MOTION: To appoint Charlotte Pototsky as the student candidate for the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.

(Smith-Lee – Pierre-Louis)

Switekowski: AYE

Pierre-Louis: AYE

Smith-Lee: AYE

3-0 **PASSES**

Board/Committee Interviews – Candidates for Recreation Advisory Committee

Lori Morgan introduced herself to the Board. She has lived in Sharon for five years and fell in love with the community. She is employed as a pediatric social worker and began a private practice in Sharon 3 years ago. She is also a fitness coach. She feels Recreation Advisory is a perfect mix of her interests and passion. Her goals for her work with this committee would be to improve access to programs particularly evaluating what programs are lacking that might increase participation. She would also like to build programs for young adults. Ms. Morgan wishes to get involved at a higher level and is open to serving in another area if not selected for a position with Rec Advisory. In her spare time, Ms. Morgan enjoys running and staying active.

Landon Goldfarb introduced himself to the Board. He moved to Sharon in 2019 from the Back Bay area and has an infant daughter. He also wishes to be more involved in the community. Recently resigned member, Ro Desai suggested he pursue a seat on Recreation Advisory. He explained his main goal would be to increase opportunities for people to come together. Mr. Goldfarb feels that common interests are some of the best ways to make connections. If not chosen for Rec Advisory, Mr. Goldfarb would be open to serving on another committee with similar impact. In his spare time, Mr. Goldfarb enjoys cooking, nature and being outdoors, one of the things he enjoys about Sharon.

The Board thanked all candidates for their time this evening and asked whether it would be prudent to make appointments this evening. Mr. Bluestein, Rec Advisory Chair, stated that it has been difficult to get a quorum for meetings and he supports the Board making appointment this evening, if they are prepared to do so.

MOTION: To appoint Landon Goldfarb and Lori Morgan to the recreation advisory committee for terms expiring 2023 and 2024.

Switekowski: AYE

Pierre-Louis: AYE

Smith-Lee: AYE
3-0 **PASSES**

Designations for Capital Outlay and Priorities Committees

The Board briefly discussed their preferences for the upcoming Capital and Priorities cycles.

ESL move to appoint Hanna and Emily to capital with Kiana serving as alternate

MOTION: To appoint Ms. Pierre-Louis and Ms. Smith-Lee to the Priorities Committee for the fiscal year 2024 budget cycle with Ms. Switekowski serving as alternate.
(Switekowski – Smith-Lee)

Pierre-Louis: AYE
Smith-Lee: AYE
Switekowski: AYE
3-0 **PASSES**

MOTION: To appoint Ms. Switekowski and Ms. Smith-Lee to the Capital Outlay Committee for the fiscal year 2024 budget cycle with Ms. Pierre-Louis serving as alternate.
(Smith-Lee – Pierre-Louis)

Pierre-Louis: AYE
Smith-Lee: AYE
Switekowski: AYE
3-0 **PASSES**

Committee liaisons

This topic was discussed at the last meeting. The Board is updated periodically, but it is felt that it may be easier to have a liaison to foster stronger relationships between the Select Board and other Boards or Committees.

Ms. Pierre-Louis expressed interest in serving as liaison for the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee to help smooth transition. Economic Development may be another committee where a liaison may be helpful. It was felt that Water Management Advisory Committee is well run, with PFAS issues and litigation it might make sense to have liaison. The Board agreed that Lake Management should be remain an advisory committee given their expanded charge. Ms. Smith-Lee does not feel strongly about liaising with Board of Health, Commission on Disabilities, or Council on Aging with the caveat that the Board may be missing a line of communication line with Council on Aging. Mr. Turkington advised that he mentioned the possibility of a liaison for Board of Health because of the increased focus in the community of providing mental health services at a community level for those who may not otherwise have access through health insurance or other means.

Mr. Turkington advised that this could be shifted based on availability and workflow. If other committees wish to have a member of the Select Board attend their meetings, the Board is open to doing so. Ms. Switekowski advised that due to the nature of their work, she prefers not to have a liaison for the Governance Study Committee but is open to increasing their reporting schedule.

The Board agreed to the following liaison assignments:

Ms. Pierre-Louis: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee and Economic Development Committee
Ms. Smith-Lee: Water Management Advisory Committee and Board of Health/SSPARC as needed
Ms. Switekowski: Council on Aging and Commission on Disabilities

MOTION: To approve the liaison assignments as discussed.
(Smith-Lee – Pierre-Louis)

Pierre-Louis: AYE
Smith-Lee: AYE
Switekowski: AYE
3-0 **PASSES**

Board/Committee interview and reappointment procedures

This was also briefly discussed at the Board's last meeting. Ms. Smith-Lee expressed that her preference would be to post for all reappointments. She feels that quietly making reappointments adds to lack of transparency and there is value in folks hearing which seats are expiring annually and hearing about who serves on committees. She is not opposed to the bifurcated proposal, but her preference is for a full interview.

Ms. Pierre-Louis added that a member's first term involves a good deal of learning, and the second term is substantive. She feels that it is most fair to post for those who would like to be appointed for a third term.

The Board discussed perhaps a pro-forma process for the first reappointment with a check-in. Ms. Smith-Lee prefers a process where the Board can show people who the committee members are as a vehicle for people to know who is doing what.

Ms. Switekowski read vacancy list from website and stated that staff has done a good job of posting vacancies. It is also felt that attendance is also important and should be considered through the reappointment process. This being a fair point, it was agreed that the process would be pro forma with the blessing of chair at the end of the first term and interviews for the second and subsequent terms.

Pierre-Louis: AYE
Smith-Lee: AYE
Switekowski: AYE
3-0 **PASSES**

Consent Calendar

Review and approve the consent calendar

- I. Vote to approve the following banner requests:
 - a. Sharon Pride Steering Committee Pride Month, June 6 through 13, 2022 in first position
 - b. Sharon Pride Steering Committee Pride Month banner, June 20 through 27, 2022 in second position
 - c. First Congregational Church of Sharon Annual Christmas Bazaar, November 28 through December 5, 2022 in first position
- II. Vote to approve the following recipient of the Helen Eaton Griffin memorial scholarship
 - a. Erin Ann Schustek
- III. Vote to accept a \$5,000 donation from the Rothberg family for the Michael C. Rothberg 9/11 scholarship
- IV. Vote to reappoint the following members of the Sharon Cultural Council for terms expiring June 30, 2025
 - a. Barbara Freedman
 - b. Kalpana Vijayakumar
- V. Vote to approve William Heitin as the Select Board designee for the Audit Committee for a term expiring June 30, 2023

- VI. Vote to approve the 2022 membership of the Sharon Independence Day Celebration Committee
- VII. Vote to approve the following ice cream truck vending license:
- a. David Gay of Sweet Sixteen Ice Cream

MOTION: To approve the consent calendar.
(Smith-Lee – Pierre-Louis)

Pierre-Louis: AYE
Smith-Lee: AYE
Switekowski: AYE
3-0 **PASSES**

- VIII. Vote to approve the Southeastern Regional Services Group Contract for Water & Sewer Treatment Chemicals IFB for a twelve-month period commencing July 1, 2022 in the amount of \$198,841.00
- a. Award form
- IX. Vote to approve the Southeastern Regional Services Group Contract for DPW Supplies IFB for a twelve-month period commencing July 1, 2022 in the amount of \$645,583.19
- a. Award form

Ms. Barnes provided a brief explanation about the services provided by the Southeastern Regional Services Group purchasing consortium of which the Town is a member. These contracts are the culmination of the bidding process completed by SERSG on behalf of 26 communities. Although it is possible that not all chemicals, supplies, or services covered by this award will be utilized by the Town, authorizing the contracts enables staff the possibility to take advantage of favorable prices if necessary.

MOTION: To approve the supplemental consent calendar.
(Smith-Lee – Pierre-Louis)

Pierre-Louis: AYE
Smith-Lee: AYE
Switekowski: AYE
3-0 **PASSES**

Public comment period

Ms. Switekowski mentioned there she and Mr. Turkington spoke about moving this topic to the beginning of the agenda. It was agreed that it was unusual for the Board to meet at this time of day. The Board also discussed how often to allow public comment and limiting the time allowed.

Town Administrator's report

Mr. Turkington provided the following summary of correspondence:

The Board received and replied to 31 employees since the last meeting:

- Invitations to read the Pride Month proclamation on June 12 at 12 noon; two Eagle Scout ceremonies on June 4 and 5; Wear Orange proclamation reading on June 3; and Flag Day ceremonies on June 14
- Email of congratulations to the Board from US Rep. Jake Auchincloss and district director Dana Hanson
- Email announcing plans to form a Sharon chapter of Moms Demand Action
- Updates on mental health programs in Sharon including Mindwise
- Resignation of police sergeant Brian Mannetta effective May 28, 2022 due to physical disability

- Email update on 299-303 North Main Street LIP project
- Email sharing organization charts, Massachusetts Select Board Association handbook and program for newly-elected Select Board members on July 23
- A total of 15 emails expressing concern about the content of a speaking program Kids Lives Matters that was scheduled for June 2 at the Community center (subsequently cancelled due to scheduling conflicts)

Topics not anticipated within 48 hours of posting

Ms. Switekowski took a moment to thank the community, Congressman Jake Auchincloss, Sherriff McDermott, and Representative Phillips for coming out on Friday for wear orange recognition of Gun Violence awareness. Coming together sends a strong message that we support one another.

She mentioned that the Sharon Celebrates Pride event will take place on at noon on Sunday June 12 at Veterans' Memorial Beach followed by a car parade.

Adjourn

MOTION: To adjourn at 6:27 pm
(Pierre-Louis - Smith-Lee)

Heitin: AYE

Switekowski: AYE

Smith-Lee: AYE

3-0 **PASSES**

List of Documents

- Board/Committee applications (3)
- Board/Committee membership lists (3)
- Draft 2024 budget schedule
- FY2023 Budget Committees
- Email correspondence of May 25, 2022
- Select Board goals/objectives November 2021 through October 2022
- Banner request forms (2)
- Recreation memo of May 24, 2022
- Ice Cream vendor application