

MINUTES
SHARON SELECT BOARD
July 12, 2022

The meeting of the Sharon Select Board was called to order at 7:00 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.

Public comment period

The Board has set aside a few minutes at the beginning of their meeting to address resident concerns or questions.

Mr. Jon Mael of 41 Ames Street was recognized. He mentioned that he will be arranging Sharon Porchfest this year and would like to spread the word about the event.

Planning Board vacancy – joint meeting with Planning Board

Mr. Pannone called the Planning Board meeting to order. Mr. Maidman, Mr. Blaszkowsky, and Ms. McLaughlin were also in attendance.

As required by MGL Chapter 41, Section 11, notice of a vacancy on the Planning Board was posted upon receipt of the resignation of Mr. Yu and the Select Board and the remaining members of the Planning Board will appoint someone to fill the vacancy to the next Town election on May 16, 2023, when the term of the open seat expires. Three candidates submitted letters of interest and resumes before the deadline of 5pm on Thursday, July 7, 2022, Ms. Jenna Martin of Billings Street, Ms. Laura Nelson of Edgehill Road, and Mr. Xander Shapiro of Billings Street submitted letters of interest in consideration of the open seat. Each candidate was given an opportunity to answer questions asked by the Select Board and the Planning Board.

1. What is your time commitment for this position? Once the appointed term expires, do you intend to run for the seat?
2. What is your interest in the Planning Board?
3. What is your impression of what the Planning Board does?
4. What skills can you bring to the Planning Board?
5. Have you ever been to a Planning Board meeting, watched a meeting, or have you been part of other similar boards in the past?
6. What are your interests within the position?
7. What is your availability outside of the regular Thursday evening meetings? Are you able to respond during the day if necessary, or attend meetings on other days of the week if needed?

Ms. Martin grew up in Quincy but her mother is a Sharon native. She holds a bachelor's degree in economics and a master's in public policy from Northeastern University. She has since completed law school and now works for a think tank that works on land use policy. She was an intern at MA Land Court and saw interesting cases while there. She now has more time and is interested in serving the community. She indicated that she would run in May if selected to fill the vacancy.

Ms. Nelson has lived in Sharon for 27 years and spent 11 years on the Finance Committee. She has worked in various industries as a scrum master. She enjoys living in Sharon and has been active in her neighborhood as well as in the community. She also indicated that she would run for the seat in May if selected.

Mr. Shapiro currently serves on the Economic Development Committee which he feels would complement the work of the Planning Board. Mr. Shapiro has experience in community development. He has an MBA and has served in several corporate and non-profit roles. He enjoys being active in Town.

Both Boards thanked the candidates for their time tonight. Ms. Switekowski hopes they will all stay active if not chosen for this role. It was agreed that an appointment would be made at the Select Board's next meeting on August 2.

The Planning Board voted unanimously to adjourn their meeting at 8:05 pm.

Presentation by Economic Development Committee

Mr. Maidman, Economic Development Committee Chair, shared a presentation. He stated that the committee has been meeting periodically now for about 18 months. They have focused on the four business zones in Town. Lack of water treatment is a very big setback for economic growth. It is felt that raising the max height in the Route 1 district from three to five stories would be helpful in drawing commercial business to the area. The reason for the limit was initially due to fire apparatus. Apart from the Sharon Gallery, the Route 1 district is the only one that can sustain growth and affect the residential/commercial tax imbalance.

Mr. Maidman offered to send a full report for the Board to peruse at their leisure. He is requesting that the EDC be allowed to seek grant funding to support the assistance of a consultant. The Board agreed to consider this and would make a recommendation at their next meeting.

Governance Study Committee – Interviews and appointment

Ms. Switekowski explained that there is one vacancy available for the Governance Study Committee. There are two candidates scheduled to be interviewed this evening, Mr. David Blaszkowsky and Mr. Kurt Buermann. Ms. Joanne Michalek met with the Board at their June 21 meeting.

Mr. David Blaszkowsky introduced himself to the Select Board. He is an economist with an MBA in finance. Mr. Blaszkowsky stated that his interest in this role was piqued when the Planning Board was approached by the committee to answer questions about their thoughts on the Town's Governance. He feels that he can contribute to principles for recommendations in report. This is an area of great interest to him personally.

Mr. Kurt Buermann introduced himself. He advised that he has lived in Sharon for 26 years. He has a long-standing interest in governance and participated in the 2010 charter discussion. He was also on the open space committee. His interest with the Governance Study Committee is centered around the Town meeting process.

The Board expressed their gratitude thanked both candidates their interest and time this evening. Ms. Smith-Lee stated that she is mindful of the need for new participation on boards. She is also mindful of the current gender balance of the committee being ten to two and feels some balance is appropriate there. Ms. Pierre-Louis has similar thoughts about getting new people involved. She feels that all candidates are well qualified and is grateful for those who have stepped up. Ms. Switekowski agrees on both points and feels that the gender balance is a consideration which the Governance Study Committee has also acknowledged.

MOTION: To appoint Joanne Michalek to the Governance Study Committee.
(Smith-Lee – Pierre-Louis)

Pierre-Louis: AYE

Smith-Lee: AYE

Switekowski: AYE

3-0 **PASSES**

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee – Interviews and appointment

Ms. Switekowski explained that there are two vacancies available for the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. There are two candidates scheduled to be interviewed this evening, Ms. Shelly Keimach and Ms. Alison Kellom.

Ms. Keimach introduced herself and highlighted her background. She has a journalism degree from Kent State University. She has been a counsellor in an abortion clinic and a retirement plan administrator for Boston University. She is a member of the Sharon Interfaith Action, the Pride Steering Committee, Sustainable Sharon Coalition, and is Co-President of the Sharon Pluralism Network.

Ms. Kellom introduced herself and described her background. She and her family moved to Sharon about four years ago. She works in a quality control for a sports video game producer. Ms. Kellom is involved in the Pride Steering Committee. She is a passionate advocate for those who are underrepresented and would like to lend her artistic and creative talent to the community through the work of this committee.

The Board thanked both candidates for their time and interest in serving on this committee.

MOTION: To appoint Shelley Keimach and Alison Kellom to the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.
(Smith-Lee – Pierre-Louis)

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

Energy initiative update by Energy Advisory Committee

Mr. Silas Fyler of the Energy Advisory Committee shared a presentation with the Board. The Energy Advisory Committee was created in 2018 and the projects they have undertaken have and will generate income for Sharon. At this time, they seek to finish the High School and Landfill solar projects. Energy rates have increased significantly. In the last six months, Sharon Power Choice residential participants have saved roughly \$864,000. In the next six months, residential participants are expected to save nearly \$1.1 million. Sharon residents and businesses still have the option to join. Information is available at www.sharonpowerchoice.com.

Sharon needs an energy/climate plan to meet the Town's goal of net zero by 2050. Other communities are already in the process of or have created a plan. The committee will need collaboration from many different committees/groups and seeks the Select Board's authorization to begin creating a plan. This will include assistance from a consultant. They also seek to expand the committee by two members and one high school student.

The Board stated that they were grateful for this information. They feel that this is an important initiative. The Board will consider the information from this evening and make their recommendation at their next meeting.

Consent Calendar

Review and approve the consent calendar

- I. Vote to approve the following minutes
 - a. June 21, 2022 open session
 - b. June 21, 2022 Executive session
- II. Vote to approve the following banner request
 - a. Sharon Travel Basketball Association tryouts – August 22-19 in 1st position and September 5-12 in 2nd position
- III. Vote to approve the following one-day liquor licenses:
 - a. Sharon High School Class of 1970 reunion, Sharon Community Center on July 23, 2022 from 4:00 pm to 10:00 pm

- IV. Vote to approve the following Common Victualler License
 - a. Application, Chubby Chickpea Mobile LLC, 366 South Main Street (formerly A La Esh)
- V. Vote to award a contract to EJ Co. Prescott, Inc. in the amount of \$976,560.17 for the supply of water main and materials
 - a. Memo from Superintendent of Public Works, Eric Hooper
 - b. Bid tabulation
 - c. Award form
- VI. Vote to approve the Southeastern Regional Services Group contract for paper items to W. B. Mason for a twelve-month period commencing July 1, 2022 in the amount of \$57,333.00
 - a. Contract award form
- VII. Vote to approve the following recommendations by the Recreation Advisory Committee:
 - a. India Day flag raising ceremony at 11:00 am on August 7, 2022 at Deborah Sampson Park as recommended by the Recreation Advisory Committee HELD
 - b. 2022 Citizens of the Year nominees, Amy Tobey and Isaac Gerofsky of Sharon TV
 - c. 2022 Sheila Miller Staff of the Year nominee Leandra McLean
 - d. Out-of-state travel for Recreation Director, Linda Berger to attend the 2022 NRPA conference in Phoenix, AZ from September 20 through September 22
 - e. Appoint Gary Bluestein as the Recreation Committee designee to the Lake Management Advisory Committee through June 30, 2023

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

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

The India Day flag raising ceremony was held for a question about permitting with the Recreation Department. Ms. Berger indicated that Recreation has no concerns.

MOTION: To approve the India Day flag raising ceremony at 11:00 am on August 7, 2022 at Deborah Sampson Park as recommended by the Recreation Advisory Committee.
(Smith-Lee – Pierre-Louis)

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

Town Administrator's report

Mr. Turkington provided the following update.

As mentioned earlier, competing versions of legislation extending the ability to hold public meetings remotely are working through the House and Senate. The House version would extend the current practice to April 1, 2023, but then require hybrid meetings going forward. The senate version extends the current practice to December 15, 2023 to allow time for the appropriate legislative committee to craft specific rules for remote or hybrid meetings.

Sharon will receive \$576,359 in state funds to supplement our pavement management, sidewalk replacement and infrastructure improvement program.

Due to difficulty with insurance coverages, the vendor has verbally withdrawn his proposal and there will not be any beer gardens this summer.

We received / exchanged approximately 33 pieces of correspondence between 9:00 a.m. on Friday, June 17 and 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 7. Topics included:

- Email from Finance Committee announcing leadership vote, committee liaisons and Priorities and Capital Outlay Committee appointments and from Planning Board appointments to Capital Outlay Committee;
- A series of emails (8) between the staff of US Rep. Jake Auchincloss and Town officials arranging the visit to Sharon on July 6;
- An email from Ruth Beckerman-Rodau resigning as a member of the Commission on Disabilities due to her relocation from Sharon effective July 31;
- Three emails regarding Select Board invitation to participate in communications initiative;
- Three emails regarding the status of Community Center beach operations due to bacteria levels;
- An email inviting participants to the community discussion on June 28 with police leadership team;
- An email on behalf of Sustainable Sharon Coalition circulating the group's solid waste and recycling goals for the next collection contract;

Notices and invitations:

- Eagle Scout ceremony on July 16;
- City & Town new officials' publication;
- MassDOT Chapter 90 funding award;
- Governance Study Committee electronic survey;
- 9 applications for consideration of appointment to Town boards and committees;
- obituary of Jake Geller;
- notice of designation of Select Board liaison to various committees; and
- Sharon Rotary Club 80th anniversary dinner on July 18.

Mr. Turkington also mentioned a request by the Governance Study Committee. They seek authorization for printing post cards informing residents of their survey to be distributed to postal customers in the same fashion as the Town Meeting warrant at a cost of roughly \$2,700. The committee has no budget. Mr. Turkington advised that he would handle this administratively with the Board's approval. The Board had no issues with the request.

Topics not anticipated within 48 hours of posting

Adjourn

MOTION: To adjourn at 10:00 pm
(Pierre-Louis - Smith-Lee)

Pierre-Louis: AYE

Switekowski: AYE

Smith-Lee: AYE

3-0 **PASSES**

List of Documents

- Board/Committee applications (4)
- Board/Committee membership lists (3)
- Interview questions
- Committee Charge
- Presentations (2)
- Minutes

- Banner request form
- One-day liquor license application
- Common victualler license applications
- Memos (2)
- Bid tabulation
- Award forms (2)
- Town Administrator's report