

MINUTES
SHARON SELECT BOARD
August 2, 2022

The meeting of the Sharon Select Board was called to order at 7:00 pm by Select Board Chair, Hanna Switekowski remotely in accordance with MGL. Select Board members Emily Smith-Lee and Kiana Pierre-Louis were in attendance as was Town Administrator Frederic E. Turkington, Jr. 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. There being no public comments, Ms. Switekowski moved on with meeting.

Joint meeting with Planning Board to fill vacancy

Both Boards met jointly on July 12 to interview Xander Shapiro, Laura Nelson, and Jenna Martin to fill the Planning Board vacancy created by Kai Yu's resignation. The Planning Board opted to wait until this evening to deliberate and make an appointment.

Mr. Blaszkowsky felt that all three candidates were well qualified. He feels that Mr. Shapiro stood out due to his entrepreneurship which perhaps brings the insight needed for appropriate development and an ability to make sound decisions.

Although Mr. Pannone agreed with Ms. Pierre-Louis and Ms. Switekowski that being spread out on multiple boards is a concern, his rationale was about who is the best candidate for the Planning Board right now. Mr. Shapiro has a head start on some of the topics already on the Board's plate. It was also felt that he was well prepared for his interview.

Mr. Maidman explained that he views the interim and elected appointments as two separate seats. Planning Board has vital items which still need attention. Mr. Shapiro's enthusiasm and thorough sense of Town is important. Mr. Maidman also serves on multiple Boards and is very acutely aware of areas where conflict may be an issue. He feels Mr. Shapiro will be equally responsible in his roles.

MOTION: To appoint Xander Shapiro to the Planning Board until the Annual Town Election in May, 2023. (Blaszkowsky - Smith-Lee)

Switekowski:	AYE	Pannone:	Aye
Pierre-Louis:	AYE	Maidman:	Aye
Smith-Lee:	AYE	Blaszkowsky:	Aye
6-0 PASSES			

The Planning Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:19 pm.

Lakeview Street sidewalks and South Main Street bike lane plans

Ms. Switekowski explained that this presentation is a starting point for thinking about the concerns and needs of the Lakeview Street neighborhood. Public comment will be allowed at the end of Mr. O'Cain's presentation as time allows. If anyone wishing to comment does not get the opportunity to do so this evening, they are encouraged to email the Select Board.

Mr. O'Cain remarked that he is grateful for the resident input he has already received. He presented several options for modification of travel on Lakeview Street.

- Option 1 One-way vehicle traffic from Livingston to Morse; one-way bicycle and pedestrian lanes
- Option 2 One-way vehicle traffic from East Foxboro to Morse; one-way sharrows; one pedestrian lane
- Option 2 One-way vehicle traffic from East Foxboro to Morse; two-way bicycle lanes with sidewalk
- Option 4 Two-way vehicle traffic; add sharrows and a sidewalk on one side the full length of Lakeview
- Option 5 Two-way vehicle traffic; add speed tables or pillows to slow traffic

Public safety has weighed in and does not support one-way traffic as it would add additional emergency response time to navigate around the lake. There has been debate on efficacy of sharrows and there is evidence that they do not reduce accidents involving bicycles. Several residents shared their experiences of dangerous encounters due to sharrows. Mr. O’Cain mentioned that incremental calming measures has been an effective approach in Sharon.

Installation of speed tables may be possible this year. Sidewalk installation is complicated as it would likely involve easements; right of way easements by law now must be compensated. Sidewalks can have variable widths, but a five-foot sidewalk is preferred. If this option is preferred, installation would cover multiple years due to cost and would impact future paving plans. Department staff has applied for Mass Works grant funding and expects to hear back in November. Sharon’s history with grant funding for sidewalks has not been successful.

Several residents of the neighborhood were in attendance and discussed their preferences. Concerns centered around children walking to Camp Everwood, traffic speed, and low visibility. There was a clear consensus around option 4. There was also a discussion about adding speed humps now with the possibility of adding a sidewalk in the future.

Mr. O’Cain mentioned that the sidewalk policy has been only to install only in areas adjacent to schools, recreational areas and by train station. He acknowledged that the policy is always subject to change at the Board’s discretion. Mr. O’Cain has language that he will provide to the Board for their consideration. Mr. Turkington mentioned that there is a maintenance aspect to sidewalks as well in the winter with snow removal. Presently, residents are not required to clear snow from sidewalks in front of their homes. Mr. O’Cain will investigate speed measures now and options for a sidewalk.

Sharon Public Library Board of Trustees legal representation

A request from the Library Trustees was included in the Board’s materials. Massachusetts law designates the Select Board as the sole authority for assigning counsel. It is appropriate in terms of designating a different firm to handle Library matters. Ms. Smith-Lee asked who would monitor invoices and spending. Mr. Turkington advised that the library has a \$5,000 budget for legal expenses. If additional funds are required, a reserve fund transfer could be requested by the Trustees.

The Board had no issue with approval.

MOTION: To authorize the Town Administrator to retain counsel on behalf of the Library Trustees.
(Smith-Lee – Pierre-Louis)

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

Lake Management Study Committee

Ms. Laura Russell, Ms. Debbie Tatro, and Mr. Ken Hyman were in attendance to update the Board on the work of the Lake Management Study Committee, soon to be recognized as the Lake Massapoag Advisory Committee. Ms. Russell provided an overview of some of the results of lake testing and praised Mr. Philibert for his work in controlling water levels which has avoided the algae blooms experienced in prior years. Ms. Russell also made a presentation on a grant application for which the committee seeks Select Board support. The Board had

reviewed the materials presented by the committee supports their application for grant funding provided there is no financial commitment by the Town if the grant is awarded.

MOTION: To authorize the Town Administrator to draft a letter of support for the grant application as outlined and discussed.

(Smith-Lee – Pierre-Louis)

Switekowski: AYE

Pierre-Louis: AYE

Smith-Lee: AYE

3-0 **PASSES**

Sharon High School solar roof project

Mr. George Aronson and Mr. Matt Shortsleeve were in attendance to discuss this topic with the Select Board. It was explained that this is the culmination of the work of SSBC and Sharon School Department wanting to generate solar on the roof of the new high school building. This project stands apart from use of town land for solar generation. The solar array will generate enough energy to meet 45% of the annual electrical needs of the High School. He went on to explain that the treatment of personal property taxes by the Commonwealth of MA have evolved and there is language in the contract which protects both parties to the agreement. This agreement is similar to the agreement approved for the Heights Elementary solar project. KP Law has conducted a review and incorporated their recommendations into the agreement. The Board has reviewed the information provided with their meeting materials and has no issues with the agreement.

MOTION: To approve the solar agreements as presented.

(Smith-Lee – Pierre-Louis)

Switekowski: AYE

Pierre-Louis: AYE

Smith-Lee: AYE

3-0 **PASSES**

Consent Calendar

Review and approve the consent calendar.

- I. Vote to approve the following banner request/requests:
 - a. Sharon Soccer Association Registration, August 8–15, 2022 in first position
- II. Vote to approve the following block party request:
 - a. Summer Street Block Party on August 7, 2022 from 12pm to 8pm, Summer Street from Tolman to Woodland
- III. Vote to award a contract to KSID Architecture of Stoughton, MA for architectural services for the water station building and authorize Town Engineer, Peter O’Cain to execute the contract
- IV. Vote to approve the following requests by the Town Clerk:
 - a. Approve appointment of election workers and wardens
 - b. Approve Police detail for the September primary election
 - c. Approve the warrant for the September primary election
 - d. Approve amendment of terms for the Board of Registrars in accordance with M.G.L.
- V. Vote to approve the Rodman Ride for Kids event on September 24, 2022

- VI. Vote to approve an amendment to the purchase and sale agreement with Congregation Temple Adath Sharon for the purchase of 60R Cedar Street, 14 Harding Street, 76 East Foxboro Street parcel
- VII. Vote to authorize the Economic Development Committee to research potential grant funding for consulting support
- VIII. Vote to approve request for SHE-CAP climate/energy plan by Energy Advisory Committee

There was a brief discussion about the SHE-CAP item. Ms. Pierre-Louis asked whether this would ultimately become a committee of its own in the future. There may be other stakeholders that should be involved in the development of this plan. Mr. Fyler agreed and stated that this is the initial step to start building a plan. The intent is for other Departments, Boards, and Committees will be brought into the process, but someone needs to get the ball rolling.

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

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

Town Administrator's report

Mr. Turkington provided the following report.

- *Remote public meetings.* The legislature passed and the Governor signed into law an extension of the current provisions that provide for remote public meetings through March 31, 2023.
- *FY2023 state budget approved.* Sharon will receive a net addition of \$118,311 compared to the Governor's proposed state aid package that was included in the Priorities Committee recommended state revenue. The library will receive an additional \$6,879 compared to the Governor's proposal. The package includes an allocation of surplus FY2022 funds to the Community Preservation Act matching funds, so Sharon will receive the same 43% match of local collections as was received last fiscal year.
- *MassDEP awards \$10K grant to purchase mattress collection container.* The Town has been awarded a grant of up to \$10,000 to purchase a mattress collection container under the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program Municipal Grant Program from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

Select Board Correspondence/Announcements

We received / exchanged approximately 32 pieces of correspondence between 9:00 a.m. on Friday, July 8 and 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 28. Topics included:

- Email suggesting capital improvements for the boat launch area;
- Notice distributed to railroad parking quarterly passholders regarding numbered spaces for daily commuters;
- Records request for warnings and fines issued for violations of the hand-held watering restriction in 2021 and 2022;
- Email questioning need for various sidewalk projects under 2022 construction plan;
- Email regarding cease-and-desist order issued for Sharon Backyard Concerts, Country Lane;
- Letter to residents advising of sustainability programs and partnership with MassSave and Eversource;
- Email questioning efforts to learn of source of PFAS in water wells and staff response relative to DEP investigation;
- Email and staff response regarding conservation-oriented water rate;

- Email from Melanson, the Town's auditor, to Select Board about risk areas as direct communication is now required by Governmental Accounting Standards Board;
- Thirteen emails from residents regarding continuing traffic concerns regarding large, Gillette Stadium concerts and football games, as well as inquiries regarding the estimated date of consideration of South Walpole Street tractor trailer truck ban discussion at a Select Board meeting; and,
- Notices and invitations: materials related to consideration of appointment to Town boards and committees; notice of memorial service for former Sharon firefighter/paramedic Seth Ebbs on July 17 in Shrewsbury; notices from Eversource regarding heat and storm-related actions; and alerts from MMA regarding state budget, economic development bill, and remote meeting extension.

Announcements

India Day will be held Sunday August 7 at 11:00 am at Deborah Sampson Park.

On August 20, the Norfolk County Sherriff's office will host a Summerfest event with Police and Fire at Crescent Ridge. There will be an opportunity for Touch-a-Truck and a drive for school supplies. There is also a collection box for school supplies at the Public Safety building.

Topics not anticipated within 48 hours of posting

None

Adjourn

MOTION: To adjourn at 9:06 pm
(Pierre-Louis – Smith-Lee)

Switlekowski: AYE

Pierre-Louis: AYE

Smith-Lee: AYE

3-0 **PASSES**

List of Documents

- Letters of interest/resumes
- Membership/candidate list
- Safety presentation
- Bike lane plan
- Request from Library Board of Trustees
- DEP Grant RFR
- Email correspondence
- Banner request form
- Block party request form
- Memoranda (2)
- Proposal
- Route maps
- Request letter
- Amendment form
- Presentations (2)
- Town Administrator's report