

MINUTES
SHARON SELECT BOARD
December 6, 2022

The meeting of the Sharon Select Board was called to order at 6:30 pm by Select Board Chair Hanna Switekowski virtually by Zoom. Select Board members Emily Smith-Lee and Kiana Pierre-Louis were in attendance as were Town Administrator Frederic E. Turkington, Jr. and Assistant Town Administrator Lauren Barnes.

Public Hearing, Griddle and Grill Transfer of Liquor License

MOTION: To open the public hearing at 7:00 pm
(Smith-Lee – Pierre-Louis) 3-0 **PASSES**

Switekowski: AYE
Pierre-Louis: AYE
Smith-Lee: AYE

Mr. Matt Porter, the applicant's representative, introduced the Board to Ed Hadfield and his wife, Ilene Mirabile. They have purchased the Griddle and Grill business located in Height's Plaza from Marianna Shayevich. Mr. Porter explained that Mr. Hadfield has extensive experience in the country club business. A complete application package has been submitted to the Select Board's office and all is in order. The Board will also consider a renewal Common Victualler license for Griddle and Grill as part of the consent agenda. The Board thanked Mr. Porter, Mr. Hadfield and Ms. Mirabile for their time this evening and welcomed them to the Sharon community.

MOTION: To close the public hearing at 7:07 pm
(Smith-Lee – Pierre-Louis) 3-0 **PASSES**

Switekowski: AYE
Pierre-Louis: AYE
Smith-Lee: AYE

MOTION: To approve the transfer of license application for Griddle and Grill.
(Smith-Lee – Pierre-Louis) 3-0 **PASSES**

Switekowski: AYE
Pierre-Louis: AYE
Smith-Lee: AYE

Early voting options – Sharon Town Clerk, Mark Hogan

Mr. Mark Hogan, Town Clerk explained that under the new Massachusetts Election Laws, Vote by Mail is required for municipal elections and Early In-Person voting is not. The Select Board may choose to opt out of Vote by Mail and/or open into Early In-Person Voting. The Board of Registrars recommends opting out of voting by mail but opting in for early in-person voting. Mr. Hogan provided statistics on ballots mailed and returned in the last election, a State election. He also provided costs for increases in staff for early in-person voting.

He explained that to opt out by mail, the Select Board must hold a public hearing then take a public vote. Then opt in for early in-person voting which requires not less than 50% of registrars in favor and selection of days and hours. Public hearing at next meeting to discuss then publicly vote to opt out of vote by mail then opt into early in-person per the approved

Ms. Smith-Lee commented that she appreciates wanting to get this sorted before candidates pulling papers. She also stated that while she understands there will be additional cost, she feels it important to have all options available and it would be helpful to know the all-in cost of both and the all-in cost of each option. Mr. Hogan responded that no other community is considering both options. Ms. Switekowski asked whether the Council

on Aging has been consulted. While it may not make a difference, the Board wished to obtain the view of the Council on Aging as they can imagine some seniors may be better served by mail in ballot.

Ms. Pierre-Louis inquired about the staffing levels and how they would be affected. Are the same number of people needed for vote by mail as in-person voting? Mr. Hogan advised that vote by mail is a much more time-consuming process for which he is grateful to the Finance Committee for allowing him to secure temporary help. Early in-person takes more people but less time, thus is less expensive.

The Board agreed to hold a Public Hearing at their next meeting on December 20.

Update from Governance Study Committee – Summary of final report

Paul Pietal explained that has been a long road. He first expressed his gratitude to Select Board and members of the Governance Study Committee for their efforts and collaboration throughout their research process. The report covering the committee's findings and recommendations has been posted to the main page on the Town's website.

The committee researched and deliberated on a wide variety of governance issues in the approximately 15 months that it met. While weighing the many different factors that impact Sharon's government, the committee concluded that the recommendations in this report would contribute to both efficiency and engagement.

In summary, the committee's primary recommendations are to:

- Retain the current open town meeting form of government, with certain changes to improve the accessibility and efficiency of the legislative body.
- Conduct a three-year experiment of allowing voters at Town Meeting to vote with handheld electronic devices.
- Increase the size of the Select Board from three to five members, to encourage greater participation and diverse viewpoints in the town's executive body.
- Advocate for all legal residents of Sharon over the age of 18 to be allowed to participate in town government and town elections.
- Recommend that no action be taken regarding the creation of a charter document.

The Board had questions for the Governance Study Committee involving electronic voting and recall.

Mr. Keenan and Mr. King provided comments on the research and deliberations of the Town Meeting and Boards and Committees subcommittees which they chaired. Ms. Monahan also provided explanation about the consensus surrounding recall. Mr. Mark Fine of MAPC also commented about the recall provisions in other communities. The Board also discussed the committee's recommendation for dissolving the Personnel Board.

The Board thanked the members of the Governance Study Committee for their hard work and dedication. The Board will continue to review the report provided by the committee, seek guidance from Town Counsel where needed, then deliberate at future meetings in preparation for Town Meeting.

Consent Calendar

- I. Minutes
 - a. November 15, 2022
- II. Vote to approve the following banner request/requests:
 - a. One Book One Town, Sharon Reads Together, April 3 to 10 in 1st position
 - b. One Book One Town, Sharon Reads Together, April 17 to 24 in 2nd position
- III. Vote to elevate the following Zoning Board of Appeals alternates to full members, filling the existing staggered terms
 - a. Arnold Wallenstein for a term expiring December 31, 2023
 - b. Hemant Mehta for a term expiring December 31, 2025

- IV. Vote to award contracts to Eastern Minerals, Inc., and Morton Salt Co., for the supply and delivery or pick-up of Rock Salt, Solar Salt, and Treated Salt according to the lowest bid prices
 - a. Bid canvass
- V. Vote to approve the following recommendations by the Recreation Advisory Committee:
 - a. Polar Plunge at Veterans' Memorial Beach on March 4, 2023
 - b. Sharon Triathlon at Veterans' Memorial Beach on August 13, 2023
- VI. Vote to approve the request by the Sharon Garden Club for installation of signs at the armillary garden at the Sharon Community Center and in the planters in Sharon Square
 - a. Request message and sign details
- VII. Vote to approve the following Taxi license through *December 31, 2023*
 - a. The Right Ride – Application form
- VIII. Vote to approve the following Hackney license through *December 31, 2023*
 - a. Barbar Hanna Saade – Application form
- IX. Vote to approve the following Auto Dealer licenses through *December 31, 2023*
 - a. Herb Chambers Route One, Inc. d/b/a Herb Chambers Lexus – Class I Auto
 - b. Herb Chambers Route One, Inc. d/b/a Herb Chambers Lexus – Class II Auto
- X. Vote to approve the following Common Victualler's Licenses from *January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023*
 - a. Simcha, 370 So. Main St. – Application form
 - b. Chubby Chickpea Mobile d/b/a/ Hummus v. Hummus, 366 So. Main St. – Application form
 - c. Griddle and Grill Restaurant and Café, 384 So. Main St. – Application form
 - d. The Salvation Army Wonderland Conference Center, 10 Capen Hill Rd. – Application form
 - e. The Savory Spread, LLC 3 East Chestnut St. – Application form
 - f. Boys in Berries, LLC d/b/a Ward's Berry Farm, 614 So. Main St. – Application form
 - g. Mandarin Taste, Inc., 37 Pond Street – Application form
 - h. Pizza Market, 376 South Main Street – Application form
- XI. Vote to approve the following Alcohol License renewals from *January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023*
 - a. American Legion Inc. Post 106 – Retail License Renewal form
 - b. Bread & Butter – Retail License Renewal form
 - c. Coriander Bistro – Retail License Renewal form
 - d. Griddle and Grill Restaurant & Café – Retail License Renewal form
 - e. Liquor World – Retail License Renewal form
 - f. Mandarin Taste, Inc. – Retail License Renewal form
 - g. Mick Morgan's Irish Pub & Restaurant – Retail License Renewal form
 - h. Ninety-Five LLC – Retail License Renewal form
 - i. Red Lentil – Retail License Renewal form
 - j. Sharon Market – Retail License Renewal form
 - k. Sharon Country Club – Retail License Renewal form
 - l. Sichuan Gourmet – Retail License Renewal form
- XII. Vote to make the following Board/Committee appointments for a second consecutive term through *December 31, 2025*
 - a. Mena Mesiha, Board of Health
 - b. Toben Asklar, DEIC
 - c. Eli Hauser, Economic Development
 - d. Alan Lury, Economic Development
 - e. Mike Sherman, Energy Advisory Committee
 - f. George Aronson, Municipal Solar Oversight Committee
 - g. Silas Fyler, Municipal Solar Oversight Committee
 - h. Robert Maidman, Municipal Solar Oversight Committee
 - i. Xander Shapiro, Municipal Solar Oversight Committee
 - j. Donald Williams, Historical and Historic District Commissions
 - k. Bryan Rawding, Tech and Telecom Advisory Committee

1. Linda Hager, Transportation Advisory Board

MOTION: To approve the consent calendar
(Smith-Lee – Pierre-Louis) 3-0 **PASSES**

Switlekowski: AYE

Pierre-Louis: AYE

Smith-Lee: AYE

Town Administrator's report

Mr. Turkington provided the following update.

- Resignation of shared energy manager. On November 29, Norwood employee David Ruggiero, our shared energy manager with Walpole and Norwood, gave notice that he was accepting another opportunity. We will have a representative participate in the recruitment and hiring process.
- Zoning bylaws approved by AG. The AG has approved the zoning bylaw recodification and amendments with two exceptions; after consultation with AG's office, special counsel Mark Bobrowski will recommend amendments for action at May 1, 2023 ATM to clarify the text and eliminate the AG objections.
- Pickleball courts to receive lights. Through a generous donation from Rita Rabb, the new pickleball courts at Deborah Sampson Park will have lights installed.
- Dispatcher step assignment grievance. We received notice on November 29 that Karen Ganz plans to appeal her grievance denial/compromise settlement to arbitration. The deadline for submission is December 6.
- Town Administrator employment agreement. I will circulate a red-lined version of my employment agreement next week with proposed changes for your review. An executive session will be scheduled on December 20 for you to discuss the proposals and then vote a successor agreement for July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026.

We received / exchanged approximately 24 pieces of correspondence between Friday, November 11 and 9:00 a.m. on Friday, December 2. Topics included:

- Notices and invitations: twelve submissions related to consideration of appointment to Town boards and committees; invitation to Stony Brook kitchen dedication; Sandy Hook 10-year observance on December 14; gelt drop and menorah lighting on December 18;
- An email from Eversource announcing application for 23% increase in energy supply pricing effective January 1, 2023;
- An email thanking the Board for the installation of a solar-powered crosswalk on South Main Street;
- Four emails regarding rumors of tenant decommitments from the Sharon Gallery project and a desire for Town news/emails on development projects and similar community news beyond Town projects and operations; and,
- Five emails regarding early construction activity on November 26 on Juniper Lane.

At the next meeting the Board will have a scheduled update from Water Management and discussions on communication strategy options, rec advisory recommendation regarding the community center beach, approval of a land gift for property located on Ashcroft Road, and end with Executive Session on employment related issues.

Topics not anticipated within 48 hours of posting

None

Adjourn

MOTION: To adjourn at 9:08 pm

(Smith-Lee – Pierre-Louis) 3-0 **PASSES**

Switlekowski: AYE

Pierre-Louis: AYE

Smith-Lee: AYE

List of Documents

- Advertisement
- Recommendation
- Agreement
- Board/Committee applications (3)
- Membership lists (2)
- Health Department update
- Organizational chart
- Objectives and priorities report
- Minutes
- Proclamation
- One-day liquor license application
- Letter of interest
- State Election warrant
- Town Administrator's report