

**MINUTES
SHARON SELECT BOARD**

January 9, 2024

The meeting of the Sharon Select Board was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Kiana Pierre-Louis remotely via Zoom. Select Board members Emily Smith-Lee and Hanna Switekowski were in attendance as were Town Administrator Frederic E. Turkington, Jr. and Assistant Town Administrator, Lauren Barnes.

Public comment period

Laura Nelson of Edgehill Road commented on the proposed acceptance of donations by the Simoni Foundation and their connection with the proposed housing application on Edgehill Road. She feels that the Select Board should not accept these donations.

Matt MacDonald of Edgehill Road expressed his opposition of the rental of development on Edgehill Road and acceptance of the two donations by the Simoni Foundation as they are a party related to the development. These donations appear to be designed to gain favor and sends a message of impropriety.

Georgeann Lewis and Lois McCallan also made comments supporting those of their Edgehill Road neighbors.

Judy Crosby wished to follow up on the municipal parking lot behind Angel's Cafe. She was there today and witnessed a non-handicapped vehicle parked in a handicapped spot and called Sharon Police Department to report it. There continues to be a problem there.

There being no further comments, Ms. Pierre-Louis moved on with the meeting.

Board and Committee interviews

Ms. Pierre-Louis explained that the Board asks a standard set of questions for each candidate:

Please tell us about your personal background, education, employment, things you like to do for fun, etc. and how/if it relates to the committee for which you seek appointment.

Why are you interested in appointment to the particular committee? What goals do you have for your service?

We often have more interested citizens who step forward to serve. If not chosen for the particular committee to which you have applied, would you consider a different assignment?

How can we ensure the work of your committee reflects the breadth of thought that reflects Sharon's diverse community?

The Board met with candidates Susan Saunders for Board of Health and Stephen Kafka and Katherine Goyette for Council on Aging Board.

The Board thanked the candidates for their interest in serving on a Sharon Board or Committee and for their time meeting with the Select Board this evening. Although the Board's policy is to make appointments at the meeting following interviews, the Board of Health expressed special circumstances and requested that the Board appoint Ms. Saunders this evening so that she may participate at the upcoming Board of Health meeting on January 17.

MOTION: To appoint Susan Saunders to the Board of Health through December 31, 2026 to fill the existing vacancy.
(Switekowski – Smith-Lee)

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

Set date for 2024 Annual Town Meeting

MOTION: To hold the 2024 Annual Town Meeting at 7pm on Monday, May 6, 2024.
(Switekowski - Smith-Lee)

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

Open the warrant for 2024 Annual Town Meeting

MOTION: To open the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting on January 10, 2024, at 8:30 am and close the warrant on Friday, January 19, 2024, at 12:00 pm
(Smith-Lee - Switekowski)

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

Review proposed articles for Annual Town Meeting warrant

Mr. Turkington provided an overview of the following placeholder articles for the Annual Town Meeting warrant.

| | |
|---|---|
| A | Act on Reports |
| B | Sharon Friends School Fund Records and Appointments |
| C | Approve Changes to Compensation Plan in Personnel By-Law |
| D | Property Tax Exemptions |
| E | Revolving Fund Authorizations |
| F | Appoint Finance Committee Members and Nominating Committee of the Finance Committee Members |
| G | Compensation of Elected Officials |
| H | Capital Outlay |
| I | Fiscal Year 2025 Budget |
| J | Community Preservation Act Annual Funding and Projects |
| K | Multi-family zoning districts for MBTA communities |
| L | Establishment of historic district on East Street |
| M | Board of Health regs/bylaw changes (w/Animal Control) |
| N | Increase senior tax workoff limit |
| O | Acceptance of MGL c.64G, s. 3D |
| P | Zoning relief for Chestnut Street project (septic from Wilbur) |
| Q | Land swap - septic for potential old library reuse |
| R | Amend Personnel By-Law |
| S | Powers and appointing authority of Personnel Board |
| T | Amend General By-Law to establish recall provisions for elected officials |
| U | Amend General By-Law to establish removal provisions for appointed members of committees |

The Board discussed some of the details of the article for recall with Mr. Turkington in addition to the appointing authority for the Moderator.

Judy Crosby of 6 Condor Road expressed her concerns about the Board’s remarks about recall and advised that she is considering a citizen’s petition. In addition, she feels that significant outreach should be provided regarding the MBTA communities zoning.

Philip King of 18 Ashcroft Road also expressed his support for including an article for recall.

MOTION: To insert the list of placeholder articles presented, A-U, and addition of articles V & W for the role of the moderator and the acceptance of Lily Lane and extension of Juniper Lane in the Annual Town Meeting warrant.
(Smith-Lee - Switekowski)

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

Designate potential 2024 Special Town meeting date

The Town Clerk, Mark Hogan, provided his top three dates for a Special Town Meeting considering the deadlines for voter registration and posting the warrant as follows:

| Special Town Meeting Date | Voter Registration Deadline | Warrant Posting Deadline | Select Board Meeting Prior to Warrant Posting |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Thursday, 12/19/24 | Monday, 12/09/24 | Thursday, 12/05/24 | Tuesday, 12/03/24 |
| Thursday, 12/12/24 | Monday, 12/02/24 | Wednesday, 11/27/24 | Tuesday, 11/12/24 |
| Thursday, 12/05/24 | Monday, 11/25/24 | Thursday, 11/21/24 | Tuesday, 11/12/24 |

A religious calendar was also provided for the Board’s consideration.

MOTION: To designate Thursday, December 12, 2024 as the date for a Special Town Meeting, if necessary.
(Switekowski – Smith-Lee)

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

Town Administrator performance evaluation

The Board explained for the benefit of the public that each board member completes an evaluation individually which is then compiled into a document representing a consensus. The Board feels that the composite fairly reflects the evaluations put forward.

Some of the remarks included in the consensus evaluation include strengths such as the ability to balance many things and stay on top of them, cool and calm under pressure, strong fiscal management, and thoroughly prepared for all meetings. Areas for development and improvement include continuing to work on sustainability and ongoing governance efforts. The overall rating given is 4.96 out of a possible score of 5.

MOTION: To accept the composite evaluation as compiled by the Chair.
(Smith-Lee - Switekowski) 3-0 **PASSES**

Switekowski: AYE
Smith-Lee: AYE

Consent calendar

- I. Vote to approve the following minutes
 - a. December 19, 2023
- II. Vote to approve the following banner request:
 - a. Potters Place spring show and sale, April 29-May 6 in 2nd position
- III. Vote to award salt contracts to the following vendors for snow and ice control
 - a. Eastern Minerals (primary) for rock salt at \$59.98/ton
 - b. Eastern Minerals (primary) for solar salt at \$59.98/ton
 - c. Eastern Minerals (primary) for treated salt at \$79.98/ton
 - d. Morton Salt Co (secondary) for rock salt at \$67.91/ton delivered and \$67/ton picked up
 - e. Morton Salt Co (secondary) for treated salt at \$89.31/ton delivered and \$83/ton picked up
 - f. Mid-American salt (secondary) for solar salt at \$69.12/ton delivered and \$69/ton picked up
- IV. Vote to approve the following at the request of the Recreation Advisory Committee
 - a. To hold the Special Olympics Polar Plunge at Veteran's Memorial Park Beach on Sunday, March 3, 2024
 - b. To hold the Sharon Triathlon at Veteran's Memorial Park Beach on Sunday, August 11, 2024
- V. Vote to accept the following donations:
 - a. \$250 to the Fire Department donation fund from Alex and Olga Leon for future use
 - b. \$5,249 from the Simoni Foundation to Sharon Fire Department for purchase of replacement batteries and vehicle charger for extrication tools
 - c. \$11,000 from the Simoni Foundation to Sharon Police Department for purchase of a side-by-side all-terrain vehicle
- VI. Vote to approve a common victualler license for Shaw's Supermarkets, Inc. d/b/a Starbucks Kiosk at Shaw's #418

The Board held a brief discussion on the donations by the Simoni Foundation and the related comments made by the public earlier this evening. They agreed to table the items to consult with Town Counsel.

MOTION: To approve the consent calendar but table items involving donations by the Simoni Foundation so as to seek guidance from Town Counsel.
(Switekowski – Smith-Lee)

Switekowski: AYE

Smith-Lee: AYE

Pierre-Louis: AYE

3-0 **PASSES**

Report of the Town Administrator

Mr. Turkington provided a brief update as he has been away from the office on vacation over the holidays.

The Board will meet again on January 23, 2024 and should expect to have a follow-up discussion on warrant articles for annual town meeting. A discussion on the budget will be deferred until February 6. The Governor will be announcing the budget on January 24 after the Board's next meeting.

Topics not reasonably anticipated within 48 hours in advance of the meeting

None.

Adjourn

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm.
(Smith-Lee – Switlekowski)

Switlekowski: AYE

Smith-Lee: AYE

Pierre-Louis: AYE

3-0 **PASSES**

List of Documents

- Board/Committee applications (4)
- Placeholder article list
- Memo from Town Clerk
- Calendar
- Consensus evaluation
- Status of 2023 goals and objectives
- Minutes
- Banner request form
- Contract award form
- Memo from Recreation Director
- Donation acceptance request forms (3)
- Common victualler license application