

MINUTES
SHARON SELECT BOARD
August 18, 2020

The meeting of the Sharon Select Board was called to order at 6:00 pm by Select Board Chair Emily Smith-Lee remotely via Zoom. Select Board members William Heitin and Hanna R. Switekowski were in attendance as was Town Administrator Frederic E. Turkington, Jr. The meeting commenced with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and two announcements.

1. There is an opening on the Sharon Public Library Board of Trustees. Interested candidates should email a letter of interest and resume to selectboard@townofsharon.org by August 31, 2020. More information can be found on the Town's webpage.
2. The Recreation Department would like to thank all involved in the very successful, first of two Park n View outdoor movie nights.

Host community agreement for marijuana cultivation at 2-4 Merchant Street

Mr. Brian Striar and his wife Lynne Striar were in attendance as well as Mr. and Mrs. Giannopoulos. It was explained that Kapnos, Inc., a women's business enterprise, is the cultivation facility which will be operated next to the Four Daughters Compassionate Care dispensary. They will provide whole flower cannabis in an 8,000 square foot facility. It is expected they will produce 2,000 pounds of cannabis per year at a price of \$4,000 to \$5,000 per pound which will yield an expected revenue of \$8 to \$10 million. Mr. Striar explained that demand for cannabis outweighs supply so sales forecasts are positive. Craft cannabis is expected to be highly sought after and Mr. Striar feels the price range stated will hold steady.

MOTION: To approve the host community agreement for marijuana cultivation at 2-4 Merchant Street as discussed.
(Heitin - Switekowski)

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

Mr. Striar offered an update on progress of the Four Daughters retail dispensary which had its final inspection Thursday. Staff has been hired and trained and the facility may open in about two weeks.

Review and approve consent calendar

- I. Vote to approve the regular session minutes of July 28 and August 11, 2020
- II. Vote to appoint Debbie Yaffe to Registrar of Voters for a term expiring December 31, 2023.

MOTION: To approve the regular session minutes of July 28 and August 11, 2020.
(Heitin- Switekowski)

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

MOTION: To appoint Debbie Yaffe to Registrar of Voters for a term expiring December 31, 2023.
(Heitin- Smith-Lee)

Heitin: AYE
Switlekowski: ABSTAINED
Smith-Lee: AYE
2-0-1 **PASSES**

Report of the Town Administrator

Mr. Turkington provided the following update.

- Solar leases have been executed and sent to DSD. The PILOT agreements are undergoing final review.
- The Board has received a letter regarding maintenance of athletic fields. This is a topic which needs review and will added to a future agenda for discussion.
- The recent sale of September only train passes didn't generate as many sales as expected. It is assumed that many residents are still working remotely due to COVID. Town Hall staff will continue to monitor sales and offer prorated September passes for those returning to work. The next quarterly sale will be on September 3.
- The Select Board may be asked to consider the addition of two articles for the Annual Town Meeting warrant. Sharon Gallery is seeking the possibility to allow the accessory sale of gasoline for a membership club and there is the possibility of sale or lease of land between CVS and Town Hall. Draft articles are being circulated now for a future meeting.
- The Board will vote the Town Meeting date after the Tri-Board meeting tonight. Staff had posted the preliminary plan on the Town website and social media platforms which was met with a few complaints about the proposed date being a holiday. After a brief discussion about timing and logistics for Town Meeting, Mr. Turkington also clarified why it is not possible to hold Annual Town Meeting virtually. He stated that the State Legislature enacted exemptions for virtual Representative Town Meeting but not for open Town Meeting.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee candidate interviews

This is a continuation of the discussion held at the last Board meeting to accommodate candidates who were unable to attend that evening.

Mr. Steve Coffey of the Sharon Police Department and Ms. Dru Ledbetter met with the Board. Both candidates were provided with the list of questions the Board would ask so they could prepare their answers ahead of the meeting. Mr. Coffey and Ms. Ledbetter were afforded the opportunity to share their background and what they felt were important experiences in addition to how they thought the Town may benefit from this newly formed committee. They also spoke some on what they though the needs in the community may be.

The Board thanked Mr. Coffey and Ms. Ledbetter for their willingness to serve in this important capacity and for their time tonight.

Ms. Crosby of 7 Condor Road provided a brief update on the School Committee's selection of their representative candidate.

The Board took a brief recess at 6:30 until the 6:45 pm pole location hearing.

Pole Location Hearing – 40 Canton Street

MOTION: To open the pole location hearing for 40 Canton Street at 6:45 pm.
(Heitin-Switekowski)

Heitin: AYE
Switekowski: AYE
Smith-Lee: AYE

Mr. Anthony Marini was in attendance to speak on behalf of Verizon in this matter. He explained that the existing poles require a guy wire for stability and to prevent further leaning. The old guy wire is attached to a tree that has been completely rotted and though still connected, it does not currently provide adequate bracing.

Ms. Michelle Lucie of 208 North Main Street asked whether this pole location involves development of or providing service for the property where the pole will be located. Mr. Marini answered that it does not.

MOTION: To close the pole location hearing for 40 Canton Street.
(Heitin-Switekowski)

Heitin: AYE
Switekowski: AYE
Smith-Lee: AYE

MOTION: To approve the pole location at 40 Canton Street.
(Heitin-Switekowski)

Heitin: AYE
Switekowski: AYE
Smith-Lee: AYE

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

Ms. Switekowski made an announcement about early voting and mail-in ballot applications for the Primary Election on September 1, 2020.

MOTION: To recess at 6:56 pm and reconvene at the conclusion of the Tri Board meeting.
(Heitin - Switekowski)

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

MOTION: To reconvene at 9:20 pm.
(Heitin- Switekowski)

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

Annual Town Meeting dates

The Board discussed holding Town Meeting on a Sunday and whether to start between 10 and 11 in the morning or between noon and 1:00 pm on Columbus Day. They discussed the logistics involved with a 5:00 pm start outdoors. Consensus was reached around holding Town Meeting outdoors on Monday, October 12 with an afternoon start and a rain date of Tuesday, October 13.

MOTION: To approve the date of October 12, 2020 at 1:00 pm for Annual Town Meeting at the Sharon High School football field with a rain date of October 13, 2020 at 5:00 pm at the Sharon High School football field.

(Heitin - Switlekowski)

Heitin: AYE

Switlekowski: AYE

Smith-Lee: AYE

3-0 **PASSES**

MOTION: To adjourn at 9:12 pm.

(Heitin - Switlekowski)

Heitin: AYE

Switlekowski: AYE

Smith-Lee: AYE

3-0 **PASSES**

List of Documents

- Host community agreement
- Minutes
- Correspondence
- Membership list
- Board/Committee applications
- Petition materials
- Town Engineer Memorandum
- Correspondence regarding 7/28/20 public hearing abutter notice