

**MINUTES**  
**SHARON BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
*December 1, 2015*

The meeting of the Sharon Board of Selectmen was called to order in the Multi-Purpose Room at the Sharon Adult Center in the Community Center at 6:30pm with Chairman William A. Heitin, Clerk Walter B. Roach, Selectman John J. McGrath, and Town Administrator Frederic E. Turkington, Jr.

**Swearing In Ceremony - Deputy Police Chief John Ford**

Chief Kaufman spoke of Deputy Chief Ford's biography and background. Ed Little, uncle of the Deputy, administered the oath of office to Deputy Police Chief John Ford, which was greeted by a standing ovation from the Board and the audience. Deputy Chief thanked the Board and commented that he is looking forward to an exciting future.

**Sharon Friends of the Council on Aging Raffle**

Gordon Gladstone, Treasurer of the Friends of the Council on Aging, explained the purpose of the Friends of the Sharon Council on Aging and activities the Friends are involved with. The raffle is one of two fundraisers they hold each year. The Board selected the thirty-four winners of the raffle. Mr. Gladstone thanked those who contributed by buying raffle tickets and providing the prizes.

**Consent Calendar**

- I. Vote to approve regular session minutes of November 17, 2015
- II. Vote to appoint Ruth Palan Lopez as an Alternate Member to the Council on Aging Board with a term to expire December 31, 2018
- III. Vote to approve and sign the 2016 alcohol licenses for:

Vinovations	Bread N Butter
Mandarin Taste	Sharon Market
Sharon Country Club	Sichuan Gourmet
Mick Morgans	Saphire Manor
Coriander Bistro	Spring Valley Country Club
- IV. Vote to approve and sign the 2016 common victualler licenses for:

Mandarin Taste	Pizza Market
Dunkin Donuts	Sichuan Gourmet
Mick Morgans	Saphire Manor
Sharon Country Club	Spring Valley Country Club
Ward's Berry Farm	
- V. Vote to approve and sign the 2016 Class I Auto Dealers licenses for Herb Chambers Lexus of Sharon
- VI. Vote to approve and sign the 2016 Class II Auto Dealers license for Herb Chambers Lexus of Sharon

**MOTION:** To approve the December 1, 2015 consent calendar  
(McGrath - Roach) 3-0 **PASSES**

**Commission on Disabilities Interview - Amy Karas**

Chairman Heitin asked Ms. Karas to tell the Board a little about herself. She explained that her husband was disabled and has first-hand experience in disability issues. She and her husband raised their family here and

she would like to serve on the Commission. Selectman McGrath commented that her personal experience would make her an excellent addition to the Commission.

Chairman Heitin thanked Ms. Karas for coming this evening and noted that they typically do not make an appointment the same night they interview a candidate, so Ms. Karas should expect to hear from the Board after their next meeting.

### **Algonquin Natural Gas Pipeline Project Discussion**

Chairman Heitin noted that this is not an open forum, but rather an informational session for the Board of Selectmen. Chairman Heitin would like to keep the meeting focused and how this pipeline would impact the Town of Sharon. He noted that the Board has little authority over the permitting of the pipeline. He added that the Board will take no position this evening as this is the first time they are learning details about the pipeline, so he asked the audience to not ask the Board to take a position.

The Board took a brief recess to allow for the presentation setup.

Attorney Jon Bonsall from Keegan Werlin, who represents Spectra Energy and Frank Gessner, Principal Project Manager in the Rights-of-Way and Land Department from Spectra Energy were presentation for the presentation and discussion.

Attorney Bonsall began by explaining that the project developers for the Access Northeast Project are Eversource Energy, National Grid and Spectra Energy. He displayed a slide showing the route of the gas pipeline in the Northeast. He noted that Algonquin Gas owns the pipeline and transports gas on behalf of its customer's but does not own gas. Natural gas complements ISO-NE's wind and solar fleet whose output varies with the weather and time of day. He noted that the benefits of expanding the existing pipeline to Sharon residents include cleaner air emissions and stable electricity rates. He showed a slide entitled *New England Shifts to Coal & Oil in the Winter*. Approximately 15 percent of New England's electric generating capacity has announced plans to retire within five years and Access Northeast is designed to maximize direct pipeline interconnects to power generators and advance a solution to New England's energy challenge. He added that Access Northeast will be working largely within the existing footprint, the existing pipeline.

Attorney Bonsall reviewed the proposed timeline. The process is heavily regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the project is in the early stages. There is no formal permit application at this point; they initiated a pre-filing with FERC in November. They have had a number of informational meetings already with government officials, agencies, landowners, etc. but they will have further open houses and other meetings in the first quarter of 2016. He then showed a list of environmental permits and approvals that they must undertake.

Mr. Gessner reviewed the slides that show where the pipeline would go: this project will cross Route 1 and Route 95, cross Moosehill, Route 27, Bullard Street, Richards Avenue, Saw Mill Court, railroad, wetlands, Canton Street. They are looking for permission to survey within a 300 foot study area. He explained that there are thirty-eight property owners in the study corridor, and only one landowner has denied permission to survey their property. In the end, that property will no longer be affected, as the study seven years ago has determined that the pipeline will not go through this property owner's property.

Mr. Gessner reviewed the layers of safety during the design and construction phases as well as once the pipeline is operational.

Selectman Roach asked how many miles the project would be in the Town of Sharon. Attorney Bonsall noted that he will confirm, but he believes it is 3.5 miles.

David Arons, 11 Kennedy Road, is grateful for this project. He believes it is critical to keep a control on energy costs. He asked if public or private property will be taken. Mr. Gessner explained that the surveying is ongoing, but he is not aware of any town-owned property that they will need to purchase, but they will need road permits. If any property is needed that is privately-owned, they will discuss a possible purchase.

Bri McAleve, 14 Sentry Hill Road, asked why they are considering the pipeline even after the Attorney General's report came out stating that an expansion of the pipeline is not needed. Attorney Bonsall replied that the report is an outlier and that there is a flaw in the report, as there is a fundamental error in the figures. FERC and the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) will be reviewing their filing. He noted that the Attorney General is just an advocate.

A resident asked if the Town will post opposition information on the website. Chairman Heitin noted that the Board is not taking a position on anything this evening. The Board will determine, over the next several weeks, what, if anything, will be posted on the town's website.

Philip Pitha, 40 May Street, doesn't think that it will definitely benefit Sharon residents, as the market rates for electricity fluctuate over time and believes we need to reduce fossil fuels. He expressed concern about the cost of expanding the pipeline and asked the officials representing Spectra how they can guarantee this will save us money. Attorney Bonsall replied that no one can guarantee lower electricity costs, but the current electrical costs keep rising due to the supply constraints with the existing pipeline. He went on to explain that there are pipeline capacity problems in the summer, which is of concern.

Valerie Ordway, 54 Richards Avenue, noted that a part of the pipeline goes across her property and said that the pipeline is sprayed with a toxin and asked how the vegetation will be managed to make it safe for everyone. Mr. Gessner replied that the pipeline is mowed every seven years and in some places, it has to be handcut. He added that they do not use sprays to control foliage.

Another resident wants to make sure that our natural resources are protected and asked what will be done to preserve the wetlands. Mr. Gessner replied that the environmental team will review the property and determine the best course of action to mitigate impacts to the town's natural resources.

Stefani Langol, 52 Richards Avenue, noted that there is a historical cemetery in the area and is concerned about the impacts to the cemetery. She added that there is a lot of rock in the area and is concerned about the impacts of blasting to homes and the cemetery. Mr. Gessner explained that residents will always have access to their homes, but acknowledged that there may be some blasting. Those homes (in the 150-200 foot area) will be notified in advance and asked if they would like a pre-inspection of their home. After construction, if a resident feels there has been damage to their home or property (includes wells, septic systems, etc.), the inspectors will come back out and if the utility is deemed responsible, they will be responsible for repairs.

Scott from Sentry Hill Road asked where the pipeline is made. Mr. Gessner noted that gas pipelines are made in mills in the United States and across the world, and pointed out that this particular pipeline has not yet been built. The resident asked how they can ensure that the pipeline isn't going to burst. Mr. Gessner replied that the lines being built today are much stronger and safer than those built sixty years ago.

Alan DelGadillo, 56 Richards Avenue, asked what the diameter is of the existing pipeline. Mr. Gessner replied that it is currently 24 inches in diameter and the new one will be 30 inches. In response to a question about how the diameter size was reached, Mr. Gessner said that the size was based on need and volume. When asked about the average depth of the pipeline in Sharon, Mr. Gessner replied that the pipeline will be 3 feet

under grass, but will need to be adjusted deeper to accommodate the transmission wires, and other utilities. Mr. Gessner pointed out that the 300 feet is the study corridor, but not an easement – it will be a 50-75 foot easement.

John Blumenstiel, 115 Maskwonicut Street, asked about the LNG site in Rehoboth and asked if the gas company will ship the gas overseas. Attorney Bonsall replied that the LNG site does not ship overseas.

Chairman Heitin reiterated that the Board of Selectmen has almost no authority over this project. The Conservation Commission has authority over conservation land, and the Board of Selectmen, as Road Commissioners, has authority over road openings. The Board thanked everyone for coming and reminded residents that there will be other opportunities to hear information from Spectra Energy as their move through the approval process with FERC.

The Board took a brief recess to allow for breakdown of materials and for the audience to disperse.

### **Sharon Gallery Road Layout & Development Agreement Discussion**

Chairman Heitin noted that they hoped to have a final road layout and he thinks we are almost there. The hope is that to have another meeting on Monday to finalize the layout to have it on the Board's next agenda. Mr. Turkington noted that Town Engineer Peter O'Cain has offered his comments that the Board.

The biggest issue is how the project is going to be funded and the other issue is the bid process. Chairman Heitin was very firm that the town has the final say on the roadway developer. Mike Khoury is representative Old Post Road Holdings, and their project is fully permitted for 192 units. He stated to that Board that they need to get the full road built, and if they can't get the full road built, they need to go with the original proposal of the limited accessway that will support their project and the other developer can tie in later. Chairman Heitin thanked the representatives from Old Post Road Holdings for attending.

### **Town Administrator's Report**

The Town Administrator reported the following:

- Free cash has been certified by the Department of Revenue at \$2,502,888.
- Fire Chief Jim Wright is managing a shortfall for unplanned overtime expenses due to multiple extended illnesses. The Finance Committee has been notified.
- A Priorities Committee meeting needs to be scheduled to discuss revenue estimates and budget allocations.
- He and the Fire Chief are meeting on Thursday with fire chiefs and town administrators from the towns that comprise the regional dispatch operation in Holbrook to discuss the requested contribution increase.
- Reviewed the three options that have resulted from the town office ADA/space needs study:
  - ADA compliance only - \$2.7 million
  - ADA compliance and minor addition - \$6.6 - \$7.1 million
  - New building - \$10.1 million
- The December 15 agenda will be comprised of board/committee appointments; license approvals; Sharon Gallery/Old Post Road road layout; and establishing the department budget review schedule
- At the January 5 meeting, the Board will consider minor parking changes as well as possibly scheduling the 2016 fall town meeting.

### **Topics not reasonably anticipated forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting**

Selectman McGrath thanked Chairman Heitin, the clergy, public safety officials and those who helped make the vigil happen - it was great for the community to come together. He praised the Police Department for their work in handling a difficult situation recently on North Main Street and commended the Fire Department for containing a fire to the garage and preventing it from reaching the home.

### **Adjournment**

**MOTION:** To adjourn at 8:28pm  
(Roach - McGrath) 3-0 **PASSES**