

**MINUTES**  
**SHARON BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
*June 21, 2016*

The meeting of the Sharon Board of Selectmen was called to order in the Town Hearing Room at the Community Center at 7:30pm with Chairman Walter B. Roach, Clerk John J. McGrath, Selectman William A. Heitin, and Town Administrator Frederic E. Turkington, Jr.

**Proclamation for Eagle Scout Adam Ganz**

Selectman McGrath presented Adam Ganz with a Proclamation for earning the rank of Eagle Scout. Chairman Roach asked Mr. Ganz to tell the Board about his Eagle Scout project. He explained that he worked with the Town Engineer Peter O'Cain on a portion of the Sacred Heart reuse project to put up six park benches near the dog park. The Board congratulated him on his achievement.

**Discussion of Traffic & Signal Improvements of South Main Street to Post Office Square and Consideration of Speed Bumps on Chestnut Street, Walnut Street and Oakland Road**

Department of Public Works Superintendent Eric Hooper was present to discuss traffic issues as they relate to the excessive vehicle speed and volume created from railroad parking. This was in response to complaints raised by residents living in the surrounding neighborhoods. Mr. Hooper noted that traffic backing up from the lights at the center is increasing the volume of cut-through traffic in the surrounding neighborhoods, while the excessive speed is being caused by commuters rushing to and from the train. Mr. Hooper recommended the following measures proposed by the Town's traffic consultant to alleviate the congestion and speeding:

- Change light sequencing at outbound light to increase traffic flow in the center
- Coordinate lights at East Chestnut Street with the light in the center
- Eliminate flashing yellow light located in front of the Fire Station while maintaining remote controlled emergency activation of the red light to safely exit the station
- Install speed bumps on Chestnut Street, Walnut Street and Oakland Road
- Increase Police patrols in the area

Mr. Hooper noted that Thomas Houston of Professional Services Corporation, PC was hired to evaluate the traffic patterns around the railroad station. He explained that the data does not support additional stop signs and speed bumps. He hesitates to implement change because it sets a precedent for other areas of town. Mr. Turkington added that the engineering standards are based on consistent traffic flow in one hour increments, not sporadic surges seen during train departures and arrivals within morning and evening commuter time.

Police Chief Tilden Kaufman noted that during regular patrols of the area they do see a reduction in speeds, but as soon as those patrols are diverted the problem arises again. He believes that the traffic backing up from the center is encouraging the cut-through traffic.

Chairman Roach asked the Fire Chief if removing the flashing yellow light would affect them. Chief Wright noted that the light tends to be confusing to drivers, so removing it will not affect them since they will still maintain remote operation of the traffic light to exit the station safely. With regard to the addition of speed bumps, he cautioned that it slows their response time as they have to bring the trucks to a complete stop before crossing them.

There was much discussion about potential options to mitigate the traffic problems including adding an island at the train station to slow entering and exiting traffic from the train station parking lot, additional sidewalks

for pedestrian safety, enhanced crosswalks and street lighting and installation of additional speed tables. Also noted were safety issues at crosswalk on South Main Street at Ames Street. Residents were mixed in their reaction to the proposed changes.

Chairman Roach took questions from the audience:

- Andrew Hyland of 18 Ames Street noted that he walks the area during peak times and hasn't noticed speeding or danger walking. He believes the biggest problem is crossing South Main Street at Oakland Road.
- Jeffrey Maidman of 8 Edgewood Road disagreed and noted that it is not uncommon for cars to speed by at 30-35 mph. He would like to see real speed bumps installed – not speed humps.
- A resident that takes train each day is concerned about safety especially at the intersection of Chestnut and Walnut and supports an island at the entrance to the railroad parking.
- Lisa Maidman of 8 Edgewood Road believes a lack of sidewalks on Edgewood and Oakland are dangerous for pedestrians and that there have been a lot of near misses.
- A resident cyclist is concerned that the addition of speed bumps poses a danger for cyclists.
- James Keating of Edgewood Road believes that the narrow roads which are prohibitive to add sidewalks falls under the Chapter 90 law which may categorize the area roads as inherently dangerous thereby warranting additional signage.
- Tom Meccas-Faxon of 78 South Pleasant Street has seen multiple people blow right over the speed bumps that already exist in the neighborhood. He would like to see bumps, not humps and increased patrols.
- Mickey Hughes of 46 Walnut Street believes blind corners create a situation where drivers end up on the wrong side of the road which poses a danger to pedestrians.
- Marie Martin of 24 Walnut Street said she is concerned with noise from the proposed speed bump as it's placement on the map is right outside her bedroom window.
- James McSherry of 61 Chestnut Street believes that it is a fairly quiet neighborhood, but the hilly decline worsens the speeding problem. He believes speed bumps could increase frustration with even greater acceleration between bumps and thinks limited access signs could help (See letter in packet for further information).

Chairman Roach asked Mr. Keating if he felt the speed bumps would be an adequate solution and he responded that a speed table would be better. Mr. Hooper said that upcoming water main work would prohibit them from making any permanent changes like that and would have to follow the road construction. In general, Mr. Hooper has concerns about speed bumps as they create issues for plowing roads during the winter months.

Mr. Hooper noted that uniform traffic controls are mandated by the state and adherence to them is a requirement to receiving Chapter 90 funding which funds road construction for the town.

Mr. Hooper noted that the proposed traffic signal changes must be cleared by Mass Highway but anticipates it will happen over the next several weeks. The consensus of the Board was to reinstall the existing speed bumps, adopt signage and crosswalk recommendations and discussed having Mr. Hooper come back with a formal proposal for the proposed changes based on tonight's feedback.

**MOTION:** To approve the traffic and signal improvement of South Main Street to Post Office Square (McGrath – Heitin ) 3-0 **PASSES**

**MOTION:** To reinstall two existing speed bumps and increase Police patrols (Heitin – McGrath) 3-0 **PASSES**

### **Naming the Flume House for Clifford Towner Discussion – Noah Siegel**

Noah Siegel of 54 Lakeview Street was present to request the Flume House on Lake Massapoag be named for Clifford Towner. Mr. Siegel described the flume house to be a 10x10 stone structure by the public ramp at Memorial Park Beach that houses gear handling the outflow of water to the lake. It was built in 1934 as part of the New Deal. Mr. Siegel would like to have it named for Clifford Towner in recognition of his many years of dedicated service to the town on the Lake Management Advisory Committee.

Chairman Roach explained that he must also go to the Historical Commission for approval, and then eventually this matter will go before the next Town Meeting. Mr. Siegel said he has already sought the Historical Commission's support. Selectman Heitin requested Mr. Siegel seek the support of the Lake Management Advisory Committee if they intend to sponsor the Town Meeting Article or the article may be sponsored by the Board of Selectmen, if they choose.

**MOTION:** To support the naming of the Flume House after Clifford Towner  
(Heitin-McGrath) 3-0 **PASSES**

### **Library Building Study Update with Library Board of Trustees**

Library Director Lee Ann Amend and members of the Board of Library Trustees were present along with LLB Architects, Drayton Fair and Michael Stickney for an update on the new library building they are seeking through grant funding from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC). Mr. Fair presented the schematic design for the project explaining that the existing building will go from 10,500 square feet to approximately 21,000 square feet. The addition will expand the meeting and quiet space in the building and add an outdoor green roof terrace along the front of the building.

Ms. Amend noted that the library has undergone two additions, one in the 1960's and another in the 1970's.

She reported that the Library Trustees have filed a notice of intent with the Massachusetts Historical Society; then the findings will go to the Sharon Historical Commission for their ruling. Ms. Amend noted that the biggest challenge for this process is the space constraints at the current site which includes a parking shortage.

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) requires the library to have approximately 54 designated parking spaces. Cheryl Weinstein of the Library Trustees asked the Selectmen to consider designating a number of parking spaces behind the First Congregational Church and along the street specifically for library parking. Selectman Heitin noted that it could be an issue as you cannot spot zone areas of town for designated parking. Mr. Turkington noted that research would have to be done about deed restrictions that may apply. Selectman McGrath suggested that One School Street's parking lot could be a solution, but its proximity to the library may be an issue.

Selectman Heitin asked about the potential cost of a new library building. Mr. Fair said that the ballpark would be about \$15 million for the new library and that the grant would cover up to fifty percent of the cost. The grant application is due in January 2017. Ms. Amend pointed out that if accepted by the program they could sit on a waiting list for state funding for a number of years before being considered.

### **Solid Waste / Recycling Presentation and Discussion**

Representatives from the Sustainable Sharon Coalition, Cheryl Schnitzer, a chemistry professor at Stonehill College and Kathi Mirza, an Assistance Coordinator for MassDEP, were present to explain their proposal to improve and modernize the solid waste program for the town of Sharon. The program will provide a 35

gallon trash cart to each household at no charge and will include weekly collection of recyclables. Ms. Schnitzer noted that this size trash cart qualifies the town for a grant incentive and also encourages recycling. She said that options for those disposing of more trash than the tote will hold are being considered such as an additional cart for a fee or pay-as-you-throw bags.

Ms. Mirza showed a map of trash usage around the state with Sharon in the greatest trash volume per household category. She noted that areas with the lowest volume have strong solid waste and recycling programs in place. The Sustainable Sharon Coalition sees the upcoming contract renewal as a window to improve Sharon's solid waste program by reducing solid waste and increasing recycling.

Chairman Roach thanked Ms. Schnitzer and Ms. Mirza for their time and suggested a Board of Selectmen sponsored forum in the fall to gather ideas and educate the public on the matter.

### **Discussion of Actions to Oppose the Spectra Gas Pipeline Project**

Bri McAlevey was present to urge the Selectmen to hire special counsel in order to assist them with the intervenor process related to the Spectra Gas Pipeline project. She feels that hiring special counsel could make an impact in stopping the ratepayer tax which she believes could put a stop to the project. Mr. Turkington and Selectman Heitin agreed that the town cannot bear the cost of special counsel alone and noted that they have had little luck in gathering support from other affected communities to help financially.

Mr. Turkington explained that the town can be an intervenor without hiring special counsel. Ms. McAlevey feels that hiring counsel provides an advantage to going it alone. She urged the Selectmen to at least have a telephone conversation with the Attorney Richard Kanoff in Executive Session to gather his advice before deciding against it. Selectman McGrath believes we should do our very best within reason and at least have a conversation with Mr. Kanoff. Mr. Turkington agreed to send letters from the Board to the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) and Senator James Timilty in opposition to the use of a tax or surcharge to the ratepayers as a means of financing the construction of the proposed pipeline.

### **Eversource Switching Station Host Community Agreement Update**

Mr. Turkington explained the most recent negotiations for the Host Community Agreement with Eversource have resulted in agreement to mill and pave Canton Street from Richards Avenue to Dedham Street as well as a new sign for the Chestnut Hill Cemetery. Selectman McGrath asked about the addition of sidewalks along Canton Street; Mr. Turkington noted it was discussed but rejected by Eversource.

Mr. Turkington explained that the residents of Macintosh Farms have agreed to the most recent plans presented by Eversource for visual impact mitigation measures at the site which include screening and an exterior landscape design with more mature plantings of 8'-12' height. He noted that Macintosh Farms pressed for 12ft minimum, but there has been no response yet. They would like to see plantings of no less than 10'. Macintosh Farms resident, John Hansen noted they are concerned the range of plant size is too broad.

Mr. Hansen of Macintosh Farms explained that the residents of Macintosh Farm are anticipating entering into their own agreement with Eversource in exchange for withdrawing their intervenor status. This was Mr. Turkington and the Selectmen's first knowledge of this plan. The Macintosh Farms group would like to align agreements with language for a moratorium and regulations for mitigation measures on future projects. Mr. Turkington asked them to send over the key requests as soon as possible. He further noted that with hearings at the Siting Board beginning, leverage will diminish and the less likely Eversource will be willing to negotiate.

## Consent Calendar

- I. Vote to approve regular session minutes of June 7, 2016
- II. Vote to appoint the following to specified Board, Committee or Commission:
  - Susan Friedman to the Commission on Disabilities for a term through December 31, 2016
  - Colleen Tuck to the Board of Registrars for a term through December 31, 2016
- III. Vote to approve the Unstaffed Ambulance Agreement effective July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2041
- IV. Vote to approve the employment agreements for executive group amended to reflect FY2017 salaries
- V. Vote to approve the one-day alcohol license for Paula Wiseman of Get in Shape for Women for an event on Thursday, June 23, 2016 from 6:00pm-8:00pm
- VI. Vote to approve the one-day alcohol license for Jessica Kahan and Simply Serving II, LLC for a wedding at the Community Center on Saturday, July 16, 2016 from 5:00pm-10:00pm

**MOTION:** To approve the June 21, 2016 consent calendar noting correction to item IV to FY"2017" salaries (Heitin - McGrath) 3-0 **PASSES**

## Town Administrator's Report

The Town Administrator reported the following:

- Neponset River Watershed Association, MS4 stormwater program meeting will be held Thursday, June 23 at 7:00pm
- Rent for Le Petit Prince at 120 Lakeview Street is now current and paid through August 31, 2016
- The Council on Aging staff is conducting a community needs assessment survey. Results will guide long-range program planning. Responses are due on June 30
- The website update is complete and will go live on Thursday, June 23. Credit for the project goes to IT Director Donald Hillegass and his entire IT team, GIS Coordinator April Forsman, and to the Assistant to the Town Administrator Lauren Barnes. The web address is [www.townofsharon.net](http://www.townofsharon.net).
- An RFP is in the works for the water tank at 438 Massapoag Avenue.
- The building inspector is following up on the Airbnb complaint received for 24 Meadow Road. The home is being used for transient rental and may be in violation of zoning regulations.
- Police to monitor Mick Morgan's in response to two DUI violations from patrons leaving that establishment during most recent quarter
- Changes have been made to the public records law effective January 1, 2017- a synopsis has been provided
- Next meeting will include interviews for candidates of Housing Partnership and Conservation Commission and the final Community Center gateway design and donation acceptance

## Upland Road Water Tank Cell Tower Lease discussion

Mr. Turkington reported that no bids were received for the Request for Proposal issued on May 20, 2016 for a third carrier on the Upland Road Water Tank. He noted that a Request for Proposal is in the works for the Massapoag Avenue water tank location.

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

The following public service announcements were announced:

Chairman Roach announced:

On Sunday, July 3, the Sharon 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Committee will be unveiling the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Monument at the Sharon Community Center at 1:00pm. He encouraged the public to come join in special dedication ceremony.

Selectman Heitin announced:

Activities hosted by the Sharon Fourth of July Committee:

Saturday, June 26, 2016

9:00am Sharon Five Road Race - 5k road race around Lake Massapoag

Sunday, July 3, 2016 – Veteran's Memorial Park Beach

4:00pm Bicycle and doll carriage parade

4:30pm Children's face painting

5:00pm Food trucks, climbing wall, games and train ride

6:00pm Live band, "*The Whole Earth Rock & Roll Orchestra*"

9:30pm Annual fireworks display

Selectman Heitin displayed the *Wall Street Journal* publication that lists the Town of Sharon with over 500 other communities across the world on a petition to end Anti-Semitism. The petition was signed in September of 2015 after a Board vote.

Selectman McGrath announced:

Selectman McGrath thanked the Fire Department for their work at the Edge Hill Road fire. He noted that the garage was a total loss, but thankfully the house was saved. He also thanked them for their work putting out the fire at the Commons Field, which was not easily put out.

Selectman McGrath also wished to thank the Police Department for their handling of a recent road rage incident.

He expressed the Boards appreciation for the Fire and Police Department hard work.

**Executive Session – 10:09pm**

**MOTION:** To enter into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to pending litigation and at the end, to adjourn for the evening. Discussion of this item in open session would be detrimental to the Town.

(Roach – McGrath) 3-0 **PASSES**

Roach: Aye

McGrath: Aye

Heitin: Aye

**Adjournment**

**MOTION:** To adjourn at 10:36pm

(Heitin - McGrath) 3-0 **PASSES**

Roach: Aye

McGrath: Aye

Heitin: Aye