

MINUTES
SHARON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
February 14, 2017

The meeting of the Sharon Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:00pm in the Town Hearing Room at the Sharon Community Center with Chairman Walter B. Roach, Clerk John J. McGrath, and Town Administrator Frederic E. Turkington, Jr.

Pinning Ceremony – Fire Captain Jeffrey Ricker

The Board welcomed everyone in attendance. Fire Chief James Wright asked Firefighter Jeffrey Ricker to come forward from the large audience of family, friends and colleagues. Chief Wright explained the process the department went through to hire another Captain and noted that Firefighter Ricker stood out in the process.

Firefighter Ricker's wife April pinned his badge on him and he was introduced to the Board as Captain Jeffrey Ricker. The Board congratulated Captain Ricker.

School Committee Composition Warrant Article – Veronica Wiseman

School Committee member Veronica Wiseman appeared before the Board. She explained that the School Committee is requesting a warrant article to increase the composition of the School Committee from 6 to 7. The reason is that they would prefer an odd number; and in the rare instances when they are deadlocked, no action is taken, as a tie vote is considered a fail. Ms. Wiseman conducted research on this issue, and in most cases, towns' school committees are all consist of an odd number of members. Sharon is in the minority for having an even number of members. They would rather have more heads in the game, so they would prefer to add a member as opposed to reducing the membership to five. If the Town agrees to increase the membership, the 2018 election would have three open positions. The Committee voted unanimously to request this warrant article. In response to a question, Ms. Wiseman noted that at least once a year the Committee has been deadlocked since she has been on the Board.

Ms. Wiseman noted that this issue would be brought to the Finance Committee on February 27, and hopes the School Committee's explanation could be incorporated into the warrant. Mr. Turkington noted that state statute supports an odd number of members on a School Committee.

Green Communities Designation Discussion

Seth Pickering, Green Community Coordinator, Southeast Region for the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) appeared before the Board. Chairman Roach explained that he, Mr. Turkington and former Town Administrator Ben Puritz met with Mr. Pickering recently to learn more about Green Community designation. DOER works with all communities to assist with energy-related issues. Mr. Pickering reviewed his presentation and noted that they help communities obtain Green Communities designation. DOER provides grants to qualifying communities to fund energy efficiency initiatives, renewable energy, and innovative projects.

Qualification criteria are:

1. Adopt as-of-right siting, in designated locations, for RE/AE generation, or RE/AE R&D, or RE/AE manufacturing
2. Adopt expedited (12 month) application/permitting process

3. Establish an energy use baseline with a plan to reduce baseline by 20% in 5 years
4. Purchase only fuel-efficient vehicles
5. Require new residential construction and new commercial and industrial real estate construction and industrial real estate construction to minimize life-cycle energy costs (adopt Stretch Code – 780 CMR 115, Appendix AA)

The Town would need to adopt all of the criteria, submit an application to DOER and then if approved, would be approved for grant funding. Currently 185 communities have reached Green Community designation. Mr. Pickering reviewed the grant allocation process, and pointed out that Sharon, with its population and per capita income, would likely qualify for a \$170,000 designation grant. There are also competitive grant programs available as well. Chairman Roach asked if our recent changeover to LED streetlights credited to this program, but Mr. Pickering believes that it could not be credited because the conversion took place too long ago. Mr. Pickering provided examples of neighboring communities that have obtained Green Community designation and subsequent grants. Mr. Pickering helps his communities with municipal energy efficiencies, and would work closely with Eversource.

Selectman McGrath asked where all of the funding comes from. Mr. Pickering noted that most of the funding comes from Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative auction proceeds and Massachusetts Renewable Portfolio Standard Alternative Compliance Payments. These funds are already in everyone's electric bill as part of the retail cost of electricity and it would be good if the town was able to get some of that money back by receiving grants from Green Communities.

Silas Fyler asked if the presentation can be posted on the website; Mr. Turkington replied that it can be added to the website.

Pat Pannone, 7 Robin Road, is a member of the Planning Board. He is excited about this concept and would appreciate having a joint presentation with the Planning Board. He added that the timeframe is tight. Mr. Turkington explained that he has queued up Town Counsel to begin preparing the required articles.

Mr. Turkington told Mr. Pannone that Mr. Pickering's presentation can be incorporated into the Planning Board's public hearing.

The Board thanked Mr. Pickering for his time.

Proposed Energy/Gas Pipeline Letter to Legislature Discussion

This issue will be postponed due to the absence of Selectman Heitin.

Complete Streets Program Discussion

Mr. Turkington explained that the Complete Streets Program is a grant funding program with MassDOT for grant funding for transportation projects that support multi-modal roadway designs, designs that accommodate vehicles, pedestrians and bicycles. The Complete Streets program provides a town up to \$400,000 each year, as long as funding exists, for the design or construction of Complete Street-approved projects. Mr. Turkington added that Town Engineer Peter O'Cain drafted the policy that is before the Board for review.

MOTION: To endorse and approve
(McGrath – Roach) 2-0 **PASSES**

Proposed Edge Hill Road 40B Discussion

Mr. Turkington noted that he and Chairman Roach attended a site visit on Edge Hill Road for a potential 40B development. The developer's intention is to build 120 apartment units; 3-story building. It looks more like a hotel and appears to be out of scale.

Mr. Turkington drafted a letter for the Board to consider approving to submit to the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), and reviewed some of the letter's provisions. ADD IN DRAFT LETTER. The town has two more weeks to provide comments to DHCD. If MassHousing issues a certificate of eligibility for site approval, the Zoning Board of Appeals will need to hold a public hearing, and abutters would be notified at that time.

Laura Nelson, 236 Edge Hill Road, is here this evening as a private citizen and not representing herself as a member of the Finance Committee. She noted that each of the units would have its own laundry facilities, which would generate a lot of water usage. She noted that a letter in the proposal noted that the developer had a productive discussion with Selectman McGrath, and she wanted to know what the meeting was about. Selectman McGrath replied that he assumed it was related to a donation they recently made to the Town, but instead they wanted to discuss this proposal. Selectman McGrath told them that he was unable to represent the Board, and advised they contact Mr. Turkington.

Stephen Darr, 256 Edge Hill Road, suggested that the location does not lend itself to those people of limited needs; lack of sidewalks and public transportation. He encouraged the Board to include this in their letter.

A resident asked which school the prospective children would attend; Mr. Turkington believes that it would be Cottage.

Chairman Roach noted that the Board will keep a close eye on this issue, as will the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals. Mr. Turkington noted that the letter is due no later than March 1.

Ms. Nelson asked how neighbors will be kept informed on this matter prior to the official notifications if/when the application goes to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Mr. Turkington suggested that one or two neighbors provide him with their email address and the neighbors can disseminate the information to others.

Consent Calendar

- I. Vote to approve regular & executive session minutes of January 31, 2017
- II. Vote to approve permission for Fire Chief to travel out of state
- III. Vote to approve request by the Friends of the Fourth Committee for an "Independence Day Celebration" event to be held on July 3
- IV. Vote to approve banner request by the Friends of the Fourth Committee re: "June 25 Road Race and July 3 Event" to be hung from June 19 through July 3 (2 weeks) in first position
- V. Vote to approve block party request by Silas Fyler re: "Sharon Green Day" event to be held at High Street on May 6 from 9am to 5pm
- VI. Vote to approve banner request by the Rotary and Lions Clubs re: "Taste of Diversity Event on May 21" to be hung from May 2 to 22 in second position
- VII. Vote to accept the 2017 Sharon Independence Day Celebration Committee (SIDCC) roster, as provided
- VIII. Vote to approve the Executive Group Recognition Award
- IX. Vote to approve banner request by Temple Sinai of Sharon re: "Annual Extravaganza Event on March 19th" to be hung from March 13 to March 20 in the second position

MOTION: To approve the February 14, 2017 consent calendar, as amended
(McGrath - Roach) 2-0 **PASSES**

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Turkington reported the following:

- The Board will wait until March 14 for the approval of the final FY18 budget.
- On February 28, the COA Director will be present to review her FY18 budget as well as the results of the needs assessment survey
- Also on February 28, the Board will hear about citizen petitions; formally vote on 40B letter and consider approval of the August 2017 triathlon, among other things.

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

Selectman McGrath noted that there are four thank you letters that were sent by residents to the Fire Department.

The 3rd Annual Polar Plunge to benefit Special Olympics is set for Saturday, February 25 at 11 AM at Lake Massapoag.

Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn at 8:26pm
(McGrath - Roach) 2-0 **PASSES**

List of Documents

- "Green Communities" - MA Dept. of Energy Resources (MDER), Seth Pickering Presentation to Sharon-dated 1-10-17
- "Green Communities" - MDER "Green Community Designations Reach 155"-dated 12-22-15
- "Green Communities" - Stretch Code Flyer Sharon 02-14-17
- "Green Communities" - MA Dept. of Energy Resources (MDER), Seth Pickering Presentation to Sharon-dated 2-14-17
- "Green Communities" - MDER "Green Community Designations Reach 185"-dated 01-10-17
- Letter to Legislature from Municipal Officials
- "Complete Streets" program - Memo and policy
- Minutes of January 31, 2017
- Memo requesting travel out of state from Chief Wright
- Letter from Friends of the Fourth Committee re: "Independence Day Celebration" event on July 3.
- Banner request form from the Friends of the Fourth Committee re: "June 25 Road Race and July 3 Event"
- Block party request form from Silas Fyler re: "Sharon Green Day" event on May 6
- Banner request form from the Rotary and Lions Clubs re: "Taste of Diversity Event on May 21"
- Banner request form from Temple Sinai of Sharon re: "Annual Event Extravaganza on March 19"
- Letter from T. Traut-Savino re: 2017 Sharon Independence Day Celebration Committee (SIDCC) roster
- Memo of clarification re: 2017 Sharon Independence Day Celebration Committee (SIDCC) & Friends of the Fourth Committee
- Email from F. Turkington re: Executive Group Recognition Award & program criteria
- Bi-weekly Report of the Town Administrator dated 2/9/17