

MINUTES
SHARON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
December 4, 2018

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 William A. Heitin, Clerk Walter B. Roach, Jr., Selectwoman Emily E. Smith-Lee, Town Administrator Frederic E. Turkington, Jr. and Assistant to the Town Administrator Lauren Barnes. The meeting commenced with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Transportation Advisory Board Update - David Straus, Chair

This Board reconvened in July after many years of inactivity. The primary charge was to look at issues around parking needs and the commuter rail lot. The Town received a small grant of \$50k for a feasibility study for construction of an elevated garage at the commuter rail lot. As the committee began to look at the study and scope, they became aware that the project was already under way. Three concepts for garages on both sides of the rail line were received. The Committee had a meeting with the consultant team for the first time last week. They are looking at funding which remains in their existing contract. They will be drafting a new scope which will likely be presented in the next week. The focus will be on additional issues such as traffic. Once the scope is received, the Advisory Board will need to have a conversation with Town Hall and/or the Selectmen.

The Committee realizes that even if the Town moves in the direction of garage, it is not a near time solution. They are looking at how best to address current demands now. They are looking at shifting commuters towards ride sharing and also reviewing systems to distribute parking passes.

Demand reduction is unlikely because Sharon is the most popular train stop on all train lines. Sharon has an express train that goes non-stop to Back Bay and the Providence line is much faster than other lines.

Municipal Aggregation Broker Recommendation - George Aronson

The charge of the Energy Advisory Committee is helping the town move forward with energy aggregation. Four solid proposals were received as part of the RFP process. All four vendors were interviewed on same day. The Committee has reviewed and would like to present their recommendation. The most advantageous proposal was received from Mass Power Choice. The Committee felt that they interviewed very well. Mass Power Choice has demonstrated success at keeping prices down and balancing renewable energy. Mass Power Choice is not reliant on one source of energy, rather a consortium of two firms. They had best overall proposal in such a way that supports existing renewables as well as encouraging new. Their education proposal was outstanding. The individual who presented the education piece was very well liked. This will be the same person who will deliver the public education piece to the community. This is the consensus recommendation of the committee and they are hoping to have Mass Power Choice on board by January 1.

Since the last meeting, the Selectmen have been contacted by residents who have expressed their concerns regarding opting out of the aggregation supplier service as is the expected costs. Some residents feel that retaining their existing energy supplier may be less expensive. This is why the public education component was such an important piece to the advisory board. As the process continues, the cost picture will become more clear.

MOTION: To approve the selection of Mass Power Choice as the aggregation broker as recommended by the Energy Advisory Committee.

(Smith-Lee-Roach) 3-0 **PASSES**

SYBSA Softball Tournaments

SYBSA is asking to hold four tournaments as fundraisers for their organization, which may affect other departments such as Police and EMS. SYBSA will look into extending safety netting as a safety precaution. The summer program would need to be relocated for a few days. There were discussions for a plan for trash pickup. Parking and restrictions will be addressed ahead of time so as not to affect the temple across the street. The Recreation Department is seeking Board approval to proceed. The expected dates will be: June 21, July 12, July 25 and October 18. These dates have been cleared with the High School Athletic Director to avoid conflicts.

MOTION: To grant SYBSA the authority to hold four tournaments in 2019 as discussed.
(Smith-Lee-Roach) 3-0 **PASSES**

Beach Fees

Last year was a trial period for having a gate attendant at the Gunhouse Street entrance to the Beach. It has been found that it is not cost effective to have a gate guard on staff as there were minimal walk ins from that area.

The Recreation Department is looking to reduce spring hours. The past few years have experienced cold, inclement weather in the spring, which has not been great beach weather.

Several proposals were submitted with different staffing scenarios. The Rec Advisory Board liked proposals A and B equally and wanted input from Board of Selectmen. Again, overall, having a guard at the Gunhouse gate was not cost effective.

MOTION: To approve Beach Fees presented by the Recreation Advisory Board which eliminates the Gunhouse Gate Attendant.
(Roach-Smith-Lee) 3-0 **PASSES**

Square Jam

Representatives from both DPW and Sharon Police Department were in attendance for this discussion. Square Jam will celebrate its 25th year in 2019. Every year, at the conclusion of Square Jam, the Departments meet and complete a post event review. Many of the discussions after last year's event indicated that its current location is not necessary ideal. Other locations proposed were High Street, Pond Street between the square and Bank of American to Alice's Mandarin Taste, or at the beach.

The Police Department feels that safety concerns present a challenge in the Square. The days of using wooden sawhorses to prohibit vehicular travel are over. Both the Police Department and DPW also face overtime concerns with both the setup of concrete jersey barriers as well as staffing the barriers during the event. However, the Beach has a fenced perimeter making it an easier location to manage today's safety concerns.

Many expressed concerns that moving Square Jam to the lake will not garner the same type of excitement. Ms. Smith-Lee felt that although the Billings/Main Street intersection is not optimal, there is a magical quality to the location because it is in the center of town. She felt that Pond Street might be a good compromise.

Mr. Roach expressed that he has not seen any trouble with the location considering growth of the event and if it is taken out of the square, it will lose its flavor.

The consensus was to try the Pond Street location for the upcoming event and if it does not work as well, the topic will be revisited.

Trash Rebate Discussion

A limited number of residents who are accustomed to having their trash service suspended while they are out of town seasonally have recently complained that they are unable to do so since the Town has taken over management of the solid waste collection.

Some concerns were expressed regarding how suspending services would impact the administrative costs and whether the suspension would be taken advantage of if the barrels weren't turned in. It is assumed that a minimal number of residents will likely suspend their trash service. If it grows to a large number, it will be reconsidered.

To make this program work with the existing billing procedures, solid waste collection service will be billed in advance, then credited back on the next billing cycle. There will also be a minimum suspension period of two months.

Library Reuse Committee Appointments

The following individuals have expressed interest in serving on this temporary study committee: Lee Ann Amend, Jim Daylor, Rich Gorden, James Grasfield, Matt Grosshandler, Robert Levin, Jim Popkin, Adam Shain and Roni Thaler. The Committee's responsibility will be to look at the current building as if it would be turned over to the Town if the library were to be moved to the School Street location.

It was the consensus of the Board that individuals with engineering, construction, renovation, historical renovation and real estate appraisal experience would be ideal candidates for this study committee. Chairman Heitin reached out to several individuals who, although may not have had experience in serving on a Board or Committee, have had expressed interest in the past in doing so.

Clerk Roach recommends Jim Popkin and Roni Thaler. Chairman Heitin was also thinking of those two candidates as well. After a discussion about experience, qualifications and the number of seats on the committee, the following individuals were selected for the Committee: Adam Shain, Jim Daylor, Jim Popkin, Roni Thaler, Matt Grosshandler.

MOTION: That Jim Popkin, Roni Thaler, Adam Shain, Jim Daylor and Matt Grosshandler be appointed to serve on the temporary study committee established to evaluate the current library location on North Main Street for future uses, including, but not limited to, Town purposes, sale or lease for commercial purposes or housing, parking, or some other use and report its findings to the Board of Selectmen.

(Smith-Lee-Roach) 3-0 **PASSES**

Objectives and Priorities for November 1, 2018 to October 31, 2019

A draft of the Objectives and Priorities was provided previously for the Board's review. The last page included some ideas for 2019 objectives. Discussions included collaborating with Norwood on an Energy Manager, a recycling coordinator, and working with citizens for sustainability issues. There has been interest expressed in banning plastic bags. Insurance and a higher deductible plan is a topic that will have to be discussed in the near future. Self-insurance has helped the Town to be in a good position with respect to health insurance.

It was agreed that there would be some language added to the Objectives and Priorities plan and a final copy provided for the next meeting.

Consent Calendar

- I. Vote to approve minutes of November 13, 2018
- II. Vote to approve the 2019 Alcohol Licenses for:
 - a. American Legion
 - b. Bread N Butter
 - c. Coriander Bistro
 - d. Mandarin Taste
 - e. Mick Morgan's
 - f. Sapphire Manor & Inn
 - g. Sharon Country Club
 - h. Sharon Market
 - i. Sichuan Gourmet
 - j. The Square Kitchen & Bar
 - k. VFW
 - l. Vinovations
- III. Vote to approve and sign the 2019 Class I Auto Dealers license for:
 - i. Herb Chambers Lexus of Sharon
- IV. Vote to approve and sign the 2019 Class II Auto Dealers license for:
 - i. Herb Chambers Lexus of Sharon
 - ii. DC Auto Sales
- V. Vote to approve and sign the 2019 Taxi license for:
 - i. Barbar Saade d/b/a The Right Ride
- VI. Vote to approve and sign the 2019 Hackney license for:
 - i. Barbar Saade for the Right Ride

MOTION: To approve the December 4, 2018 consent calendar.
(Smith-Lee-Roach) 3-0 **PASSES**

Town Administrator's Report

The office has been busy with assembling and preparing the budget. There are a few variables including pensions and new hires for example.

The Board of Assessors is interviewing two finalists next week for a replacement for Mark Mazur, the Administrative Assessor who is retiring in January.

The Treasurer/Collector's office and Ms. Barnes have been working collaboratively in replacing the Payroll and Benefits Administrator who has recently accepted another position in another community.

The Town has received a \$1M MassWorks grant for infrastructure improvements in front of the Sharon Gallery due in large part to the hard work of many people including Chairman Heitin who invested a lot of time discussing with State officials. This is a great thing for the town.

The Sharon Residences received their final permit yesterday and will be breaking ground soon.

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

None

Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn at 8:34 pm
(Roach-Smith-Lee) 3-0 **PASSES**

List of Documents

- Memorandum from Energy Committee
- Memorandum from Recreation Director
- Proposed Beach Fee Structure for 2019 Season
- Library Reuse Candidate List and Biographical Information
- Biographical Information or Letters of Interest for Library Reuse
- Draft Board of Selectmen Objectives and Priorities
- Minutes
- 2019 Alcohol Licenses
- Correspondence