

## SHARON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MINUTES OF MARCH 19, 2020

A virtual meeting of the Sharon Zoning Board of Appeals was held on Thursday, March 19, 2020, at 7:00 P.M. via Zoom software and broadcast by community cable. The following members were present online: Abe Brahmachari, Joe Garber, Samuel Reef, Steve Cohen and Steve Weiss. David Young was not in attendance.

**LOCATION OF MEETING:** In compliance with the Governor's emergency declaration relative to the conduct of public meetings, the Town arranged to conduct board and committee meetings using Zoom video/audio conferencing in an effort to minimize the spread of COVID-19. Interested citizens received directions on how to attend the meeting remotely in the Agenda as posted on the ZBA website and the Town Hall (prior to it being closed to the public). This meeting was presented live by Sharon Community TV with the video and/or audio available for later broadcast.

Robert Shelmerdine, Esq, Sharon, MA, attorney for the Sharon Gallery, 144 Old Post Road, Case 1855 applicant was present for the online meeting as well.

**7:00 P.M.** Form a Design Review Committee to review Sharon Gallery, 144 Old Post Road, Case 1855 application. – **Other Business**

Mr. Brahmachari explained tonight's meeting is for ZBA to vote to formally create a Design Review Committee for the Sharon Gallery project due to its location in Business District D as per Chapter 275 Zoning Article VI. Administration and Procedure Section 6200, Board of Appeals 6240. Design Review Committee, details of which Mr. Brahmachari read into the record:

"To assist in fulfilling its responsibilities for site plan review, the Board of Appeals shall appoint a Design Review Committee which shall serve at the will of the Board of Appeals. The Design Review Committee shall serve in an advisory capacity and shall provide guidance and counsel to the Board of Appeals with respect to architectural, site design, landscape, signage, aesthetic, and visual quality concerns. Persons appointed to the Committee shall be selected based upon ability and competence to advise the Board of Appeals on architectural, site design, landscape, signage, aesthetic, and visual quality matters and may have education in the disciplines of architecture, landscape architecture, art, graphic arts, and related fields. The Design Review Committee shall consist of five members. Minutes of all meeting shall be submitted to the Board of Appeals for review. Reports to the Board of Appeals shall be submitted upon majority vote of the Design Review Committee."

Mr. Brahmachari explained it would be a five-member Design Review Committee. And that, with the help of the Select Board, the following five residents were identified and available for consideration: Shelly M. Harris-Long, David Hearn, Keri Murray, Kimberly Oliver, and Laura Smead. He read bios and spoke of the applicants' experience.

Mr. Garber questioned whether all applicants would be on the committee and Mr. Brahmachari confirmed the total for the Committee would be five members who will work independently, come up with their own comments, meet virtually using link that has plans and provide feedback by April 7, 2020. Regarding why this is different from the Site Planning Review, he explained that Mr. Houston's review is more technical and the Design Committee Review is more aesthetics, landscapes, materials, visual quality, etc.

Mr. Shelmerdine requested procedure for Design Review Committee should they have any questions for the applicant. The Design Review Committee members will be instructed to direct all questions to Gail Schustek, ZBA Administrative Assistant.

Mr. Brahmachari made a motion to formally appoint a Design Review Committee comprising: Shelly M. Harris-Long, David Hearn, Keri Murray, Kimberly Oliver, and Laura Smead to formally review Case #1855 Sharon Gallery, 144 Old Post Road. Motion seconded by Mr. Garber. The Board voted unanimously 3-0-0 (Brahmachari, Cohen, Garber).

Mr. Shelmerdine suggested checking with Town Counsel about convening the meeting on April 8, 2020 virtually to report that because it is the first night of Passover the meeting has been continued to April 15, 2020. This way people wishing to attend or watch on TV are aware of the change, whether the meeting is as usual or virtual. Ms. Schustek will check protocols and procedure. On bottom where it says "participants" there is a "share screen icon" for documents to be shown at future meeting if by Zoom.

Ruth Beckerman-Rodea, 17 School Street called in to ask whether April 8, 2020 ZBA meeting would be moved to April 15, 2020 due to Passover. Ms. Schustek stated that citizens will be able to gain information and access (if video) by going to the Agenda listings on the ZBA page of the Town website.

Next action item is for Ms. Schustek to email Design Review Committee members that the committee has been formally established and that she can help with any virtual meeting they wish to set up.

It was moved, seconded, and voted to adjourn tonight's special, virtual Zoning Board Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Approved: April 8, 2020