



## TOWN OF SHARON MEETING NOTICE

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THE PROVISIONS OF M.G.L.  
CHAPTER 39 SECTION 23A AS  
AMENDED .

Town Clerk

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**Recreation Advisory Committee Minutes**  
**Sharon Community Center**  
**Thursday, April 20, 2017**

**Present:** Gary Bluestein, Chair; Steve Lesco; Cheryl Whiting; Steve Ferrara  
**Staff:** Linda Berger, Director; Christine Kasparian, Assistant Director  
**Guests:** Bob Lee, Men's Softball; Scott Rosa and Gary Werden, Massapoag Yacht Club; Stuart Raifman, Community Gardens

**Call to Order: 7:16pm**

**Approval of February Minutes:**

**Motion:** Cheryl

**Second:** Steve

**All in favor- zero opposed**

**Guests:**

**Bob Lee, Men's Softball:**

Bob was recently appointed commissioner of the Men's Softball league. The league is 42 years old, and it services men 30 and over in the Town of Sharon. They currently have 8 teams of rosters with 15 or 16 active players. They play Sunday evenings at Ames Street Fields in addition to Mondays and Tuesdays at SHS. Men's Softball has a lot of affiliation with SYBSA. They coordinate efforts regarding field availability. Recruitment is mainly achieved through social media. Men's Softball is seeking more participants in the 30-35 age groups. Sharon Rec agrees to add Men's Softball under the "Affiliates" section on [www.sharonrec.com](http://www.sharonrec.com). Linda suggests sub lists for players who sign up too late. Bylaws require all but 5 players per team must be Sharon Residents - anyone who attended Sharon High School is considered a resident. There is currently a motion to include Town employees to join Men's Softball. Men's Softball is run as a non-profit company. They are also a member of ASA, American Softball Association. Men's Softball contributes \$400-\$500 for filler/quick dry on the field for maintenance. Dan Rabatsky is the Field Manager, and he insures participants help with maintenance.

**Scott Rosa and Gary Werden, Massapoag Yacht Club:**

MYC's objective is to get more young people involved in the sport of Sailing. MYC wants to make their program hands-on by having the participants in the boats for a longer period of time. MYC would like to put together a weekly junior sailing program. The two times being considered is Sundays 9:30am-12:00pm or Tuesday 6:00pm-8:30pm. MYC is requesting Sharon Rec's Sunfish fleet to use for this program. MYC would provide the man power and the motor boats. Sharon Rec would provide the Sunfish. Sharon Rec currently has 10 Sunfish available. Children taking classes at Sharon Rec are encouraged to join in addition to any other

child who is interested. You do not need to be a member of MYC to participate. The idea is also to use the boats on the Community Center Beach side, and MYC would not charge participants in order to pique interest in the community about sailing. MYC proposes to waive the \$450 motor boat rental fee in exchange for the use of the Sunfish and a Sharon Rec staff member during the program. Gary B. and Gary W. discussed the maintenance and wear and tear of the Sunfish. Gary W. reports an approximated \$400 per summer in maintenance for the Sunfish. Gary B. suggests having an extra-part inventory for summer 2017 for the wear and tear of the boats. The idea of a junior racing program is to have a more casual atmosphere and comfortable setting with sailing. Gary B. and Gary W. discussed a vetting process for skill-levels for the children participating. Gary B. suggests coming up with guidelines for the program before going forward with advertising. Linda suggests putting a prerequisite on the program – participants must take the Sharon Rec Summer Sailing Program. Linda will be touching base with our insurance agency to make sure we are allowed to staff and lend boats for the MYC program. Sharon Rec will assist with publicizing the program.

#### Stuart Raifman, Community Gardens:

Community Gardens believes there should be a perimeter fence to deter deer from eating the garden. At this time, each garden member receives a plot, and they are responsible for their own fencing right now. When the intersection of Gunhouse & E. Foxboro was under construction, they added a wooden fence. The Community Garden plows 2 times a year as an accommodation to seniors. All crops must be eradicated by November 1<sup>st</sup>. In 1975, the gardens were moved from the patch next to the tennis courts over to the corner of Gunhouse. 5 or 6 years ago, the Town decided they would no longer waive water fees. After that, a plot increased from \$25 to \$50. There are 80 plots, and residents receive preferential treatment. Gardeners who have had a plot in years past also have preferential treatment for the following year. In earlier years, it was set up as a zero-cost enterprise. Now that there are fees and they are increasing, Garden members are getting restless. The objective is to have as much of a minimal cost as possible. The community gardens used to buy manure from place where it was virtually free. Now, the manure is more expensive and comes from E. Bridgewater. As the cost of fuel increased, there was a shortage of manure. People started to steal manure from other people's plots. This year, the Gardens were successful getting leaf mulch instead of manure which was very successful. The majority of the members are Sharon Residents. The Community Gardens would entertain charging a premium for out of town residents. The management who set up the Community Gardens 40 years ago intended the garden plots and town water to be free. The majority of the members in the Community Gardens are not satisfied with this decision. Gary requested to see the original notes of the original set up mandated by the BOS. Stuart will be emailing those notes to Linda and Gary. Cheryl suggests possibly selling vegetables to offset the costs. On the piece of plywood, there will be an availability notification advertising any open plots. They have been 100% subscription for the past 20 years. Occasionally, people will abandon their gardens. Because the land was purchased with state/federal money, Gardens are required to let residents and non-residents participate. The Gardens would like to request the DPW to deliver to the Community Gardens plots at the beginning of the season. The committee points out it would not be ethical to utilize Town resources for an organized group. The Gardens has had a couple accounts of vandalism. They would like to make improvements to prevent this from happening. One day, the Community Gardens would like to have a gazebo and/or a greenhouse on the premises. There is not much of a social component. Stuart has also volunteered to teach a garden class to encourage to interest in town. The Community Gardens would like to be more active in Recreation; they would like Recreation to be more active in the Gardens.

#### Director's Report:

April Vacation was a great success! Vacation weeks have proven to be very successful at the Sharon Recreation Department.

We currently have 16 preregistered for the Fishing Derby on May 20<sup>th</sup>. All committee members are encouraged to attend!

Basketball was a great success!

Kayak racks are ready to be sold. They will go on sale on Tuesday, April 25, 2017. We would like to give huge thank you to Paul Spender for working quickly and efficiently to make this happen for summer 2017.

The Sharon Recreation Department is seeking Lifeguards for the 2017 season.

There are two new, beautiful sheds installed – one on Community Center Beach side and one on Veteran's Memorial Park Beach side.

Automatic locks have been installed and programmed at the concession stand at Ames Street Field. They will be open from 8AM-8PM. We will have a staff member cleaning the bathrooms 2-3 times a week.

Signs have been ordered for both beaches. Gary suggests cleaning up existing signs before installing new signs.

To approach BOS to make it mandatory for an officer to go down to main beach to ticket cars without passes.

Motion: Steven F.

Second: Cheryl

Unanimous

Sharon Rec has been receiving multiple inquiries about outdoor rentals at the beach. As a reminder, Lake Massapoag & Bandstand Outdoor Application has been approved this winter and those interested must fill out the application posted online.

Ames Street Playground Bench Program has sold 6 out of 8 benches so far. Each bench is \$1600 and includes a dedication plaque.

The playground equipment should be arriving around June 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Beech Tree Park Proposal:**

Mim Gopen has requested to spray the trees at Beech Tree Park. She would also like a clean crew at Beech Tree Park to help clean up. Linda has connected her with ISAA who were looking for opportunities to volunteer.

#### **Veteran's Memorial Park Beach Concession Stand RFP:**

To approve the lease to Felix Safai for the amount of \$3500 including electricity

Motion: Steve L.

Second: Cheryl

Unanimous

#### **Other Business:**

Town Meeting will be held on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Sharon Rec has 2 items on the warrant: recreation area at Sharon Community Center and basketball courts.

There is a town-wide master plan going on. They will be invited to a future Rec Advisory meeting.

The June 2017 date for RAC is Thursday, June 22, 2017.

#### **Next Meeting: Thursday, May 18, 2017**

#### **Adjourn:**

Motion: Steve L.

Second: Cheryl

**Meeting adjourned:** 9:12pm. Submitted respectfully by Christine Kasparian, Assistant Recreation Director.