



# TOWN OF SHARON

## MEETING NOTICE

POSTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE  
PROVISIONS OF M.G.L. CHAPTER 39  
SECTION 23A AS AMENDED.

Recreation Advisory Committee Minutes  
Sharon Community Center  
Thursday, September 19, 2019

Town Clerk

Present: Gary Bluestein, Ro Desai, Rick Schantz, Chris Valois, Cheryl Whiting  
Staff: Linda Berger, Maura Palm  
Guests: Jeff Schlossberg; Various Pickle ball People; Lieutenant Don Williams, Sharon P.D.

**Call to Order** – Gary called meeting to order at 6:35pm

**Pickleball:** Jeff Schlossberg and a small group of people did a presentation of their wants/needs for their group. Stated that the program has been in Sharon for approximately 2 years and has upwards of 100 members- both resident and non-residents – exact breakdown was not available at time of meeting. They have a great desire to build more dedicated courts as other towns; i.e. Easton, Westwood, Norwood has done as the sport has gained in popularity. It was stated that the Community Center Court does not get used that much and their concern is that it does not stay clean due to pine needles. RAC informed visitors that with a possible new High School being built their fields/courts will be offline and it may not be the immediate priority with funding not so readily available. The RAC is not saying there isn't a need for courts; just where to put them and the cost involved. A possible solution would be to expand Deborah Sampson Park. Pickleball visitors stated they could use 4 courts maybe more. Funding request through CPC or Capital takes a town meeting vote. Gary stated that we take a look at potential sites and discuss how to proceed. Linda to get specs for courts. Jeff stated he'd like to work together to come up with a viable solution. Easton runs a pay program @ \$25.00 per person w/100 people. This can offset potential repairs to courts in the future. Linda stated she'd get together with the Pickleball patrons when she gets back from the conference to look at possible space within town.

**Square Jam Follow-Up:** Don Williams and Gary stated that the annual event went well with the new site. Don wanted to thank the committee for all the hard work they do and stated that the Sharon Police Department interacts with Linda quite a bit. He also stated that Jeff Penders will be the new point person as he is retiring in February. He was wished well by all. As stated before there is grave concern from the Police Department having the event in the center of town as with the new site there aren't as many road closures at peak time. Another concern is number of dogs attending the event because when they engage with each other and there are a lot of children around it could create a potential problem. He stated safety is of the utmost importance. Linda offered up possible alternative sites, i.e. new town hall, beach possibly and asked RAC to form sub-committee for input and offer suggestion to larger RAC. Don stated it would be much better from safety standpoint at the beach. Linda stated having it in September and transform it into a Celebrate Sharon or Sharon Day as other nearby towns offer would be beneficial to the department as it is after the busy season and out of the extreme heat. Any discussion about a change in venue would have to be done by December as it goes in the summer 2020 guide.

**Approval of June Minutes:** Chris Valois/Cheryl Whiting; All in favor; zero opposed

**Director's Report:** Linda let the committee know that Frank Livera is starting his position as the new Assistant Recreation Director on October 7<sup>th</sup>; he has all the qualifications the department presently needs, basketball, flag football and waterfront experience. Member of RAC asked if there was ever a follow up discussion with owner of beer truck and SPD. Owner of beer truck brought request forward to try pilot program for beer garden at concert and police department is not in favor of this. No follow up meeting has been held to our knowledge at this time.

Discussion on possibly changing the snack shack contract to include food trucks during concert series.

Discussed removal of plant beds at beach; maybe a little too much taken out but will grow back and will replant what is needed in Spring. Trunk or Treat coming up on October 27<sup>th</sup>; looking for many more cars.

Delay on pavilion delivery; budget shortfall of approximately \$2,000.; plaque alone is \$5,000.

Concrete pads being poured on September 20<sup>th</sup> at Ames Street Softball fields.

Grading and irrigation completed at bandstand area. Looks great!

Upgrade brochure with new company, Pear Tree Design; came out great.

**2020 Pay Scale Review/PT Program Director:** Minimum wage going up again so we had to go up on pay rates. Looking to create a part-time Program Director position which would eliminate need of using a lot of vendors. This person would teach classes including weekends, i.e. t-ball, flag football, pre-school programs, etc.

Recommendation on proposed rates: Ro/Cheryl; all in favor; zero opposed.

Recommendation on proposed Program Director: Chris/Ro; all in favor; zero opposed.

**Old Business:** None

**Other Business:** None

**Meeting Adjourned:** 8:35 PM

**Next Meeting:** October 17, 2019