

MINUTES
SHARON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
June 9, 2015

The meeting of the Sharon Board of Selectmen was called to order in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Sharon Town Hall at 7:05pm with Chairman William A. Heitin, Clerk Walter B. Roach, Selectman John J. McGrath, and Town Administrator Frederic E. Turkington, Jr.

Public Safety Complex/DPW Facility Signage Discussion

David McKinley, a landscape architect with Kaestle Boos Associates, reviewed the plan with the Board. He noted that a few changes were made since the Board last discussed the signage proposal. The sign will now have two columns and will have red and blue lights as caps on the column, in either globe or box form. Additionally, the lettering – Police, Fire & Public Works – will be illuminated. The Zoning Board of Appeals has approved the variances for the project and they need the Selectmen's approval to move forward.

Selectman McGrath believes the globes fit better and are more nostalgic. Selectman Roach likes the box form better, and Chairman Heitin agrees.

MOTION: To approve the square sign option as presented tonight
(Heitin – Roach) 3-0 **PASSES**

Beach Rights Discussion

Fraina Burakovsky, 1 Beach Road, is representing Christine Milbury of 36 Beach Road, who requested time on the agenda but could not make the meeting.

Chairman Heitin noted that the Board of Selectmen has no oversight or authority in this issue – it is a neighborhood issue. The second meeting of the Conservation Commission is on hold and until that point in time, nothing can be done. The chair of the Conservation Commission informed Chairman Heitin that nothing is happening at this point.

Chairman Heitin noted that Mr. Happnie owns the property and can decide what happens or does not happen on the property. He believes that Mr. Happnie will write a letter either in support or in opposition to the project. He believes this is a good conversation for the Conservation Commission. Selectman Roach noted that the right-of-way has been written into the deed for a long time.

NSTAR/Eversource Switching Station Discussion

Mr. Turkington explained that the town wrote a follow-up letter to the Energy Facilities Siting Board in response to NSTAR/Eversource's responses to the town's initial letter. He noted that mitigation measures were requested and that NSTAR/Eversource must respond to the town's letter by the end of next week.

John Hansen, 25 Apple Valley Drive, commended the Board of Selectmen for the scope of the letter. The condo association has retained legal counsel to advocate for their interests, and they intend to be considered as an intervenor in this process. He questioned why the town decided to be considered as limited participants and not intervenors. Mr. Turkington does not know if there is a difference between the two statuses and would be happy to look into it.

Mr. Hansen said that intervenors can be more participatory in the hearing process. He feels the town is taking the more passive role by being limited participants. Chairman Heitin said that up to this point, being a limited participant has served us well, but will look into whether or not changing to an intervenor will be beneficial.

Selectman McGrath believes that if at all possible, they should not have the switching station at that site, but if they cannot move it, the Town will request certain mitigation measures. Mr. Hansen believes that the town's

position has been neutral on the siting of the switching station. Mr. Hansen is asking the town to be intervenors. Mr. Turkington said that the town cannot simply state that they don't want the switching station at the Canton Street site without identifying an alternate site, either elsewhere in Sharon or outside the town.

Ms. Kirkpatrick, 41 Apple Valley Drive, doesn't believe that the Canton Street site can be mitigated and hidden from sight. Another MacIntosh Farms condo board member suggested that the switching station be masked to look like a large home. Mr. Turkington questioned the size the house would need to be.

Train Station Parking Fee & Pass Signup Discussion

Chairman Heitin commented the discussion will be about the fee itself and the challenges of signing up for a pass. He noted that there has been talk of having the pass sale in the evening. Mr. Turkington would like to engage the staff in developing options for the fee and the pass signup itself. A resident suggested a lottery.

Mr. Turkington spoke of the disparity between the daily fee and the quarterly pass. He suggested that increasing the rate on the quarterly pass to prevent occasional users from purchasing the pass just to have, in case they needed to go into Boston. He reminded the Board that the Town lost 15 spots from Eastern Bank, so we had to reduce the numbers of passes to be sold for this next quarter. Town Engineer Peter O'Cain has identified a couple of small town-owned parcels to increase parking, but it isn't much. He added that the Town needs to maximize the number of passes that are available for those who commute into Boston each day.

Chairman Heitin brought up the idea of a one-story parking garage and that it would be user driven – the user fees would fund the construction of the garage.

Amir Karger, 51 High Street, encourages the Board to keep the rates low to encourage folks to commute and be "green." He also suggests that those on the waiting list be given priority for the next sale.

Mr. Turkington said that staff would do some research the procedure for allocating spaces, creating additional spaces and the cost of the passes, and present the information to the Board at a future meeting.

Lake & Pond Level Management Employee Backup Discussion

Chairman Heitin noted that this issue came up at a recent Lake Massapoag Review Committee meeting. In the event of the absence of the Conservation Administrator, a town employee should serve as a backup to assist with lake and pond matters. The Conservation Commission would like Keevin Geller to be the backup. Chairman Heitin believes that it should be a town employee, but that Keevin could be a backup as well. Selectman McGrath isn't sure what the benefit is of having a town employee serve as the backup. He believes that Keevin should be the backup.

Selectman Roach believes that there is a liability but could have Mr. Geller appointed as a special municipal employee, and then could act in that capacity. Chairman Heitin believes Mr. Geller would be a great individual, but we could get an employee in here more easily, in the event Mr. Geller is unavailable. Peg Arguimbau, chair of the Conservation Commission, said that the Commission discussed the matter and that Mr. Geller would be trained by the Conservation Administrator. Selectman McGrath asked if Mr. Turkington could look into whether or not an employee could do it, given the collective bargaining agreements. Betsy McGrath, member of the Conservation Commission, noted that the Conservation Commission members take an oath and legally, they can act in the absence of the Conservation Administrator. Selectman Roach would like him to be appointed a special municipal employee. Mr. Turkington will look into this matter.

Consent Calendar

1. Vote to accept regular and executive session minutes of May 26, 2015
2. Vote to reappoint Julie Rowe, David Kent and Barbara Freedman to the Sharon Cultural Council for terms to expire on June 30, 2018

3. Vote to approve the Southeastern Regional Services Group Contract for Non-Fuel DPW Supplies for FY16 as detailed in the SERSG IFB bid for a twelve month period commencing July 1, 2015 with an estimated value of \$215,200
4. Vote to approve out of state travel for the Deputy Fire Chief to attend the Chief Officer Leadership Symposium in Atlanta, Georgia from July 26 – 28, 2015
5. Vote to approve out of state travel for the Town Administrator to attend the ICMA (International City/County Management Association) Annual Conference in Seattle, Washington from September 26 – 30, 2015
6. Vote to approve collective bargaining agreement with the Town of Sharon and the Sharon Municipal Employees Association for 7/1/15 – 6/30/18
7. Vote to approve banner requests for the following:
 - a. Sharon Bilingual Montessori School to announce their school opening, June 22-29 in second position and July 13-20 in first position
 - b. Sharon Concert Band to announce a Memorial Concert for Irene Scott, June 29-July 6, 2015 in second position
 - c. Sharon Garden Club to announce their Annual Plant Sale, May 9-16, 2016, in second position
8. Vote to appoint election workers for the period beginning September, 1, 2015 at the request of Marlene B. Chused, Town Clerk

MOTION: To approve the June 9, 2015 consent calendar with the exception of #8
(McGrath – Roach) 3-0 **PASSES**

MOTION: To appoint election workers for the period beginning September, 1, 2015 at the request of Marlene B. Chused, Town Clerk
(Heitin – McGrath) 2-0-1 **PASSES** (with Selectman Roach abstaining, due to conflict – family member is election worker)

Town Administrator's Report

The Town Administrator reported the following:

- Provided an update on the Police Chief search process. The committee is set to meet on Monday to determine how many finalists will be presented to the Board of Selectmen. He believes the Board should meet in a special meeting, either on June 25 or June 30, to interview finalists. Selectman McGrath feels strongly that the screening committee should interview all four candidates and wants the Board to instruct the screening committee to do so. The other Board members agree.
- With respect to the cell tower monetization, there have been two requests for leases. Upon approval, Crescendo will provide the town with a lump sum payment. He hopes to have these ready for the Board's next meeting.
- The Finance Committee is meeting Monday evening to handle fiscal year-end transfers of funds and to reorganize for the coming year.
- Staff is compiling a list of all Community Center rentals by private organizations, to give us a sample of the types, dates and duration of use. That will give us some insight into the margins for boosting rentals and producing funds for capital maintenance.
- The Board needs to complete the Town Administrator's annual performance review. He provided three options for formats for the Board to consider. The Board felt the third option was the best method to complete their review. He explained that under the Open Meeting Law, the Board members complete the reviews and provide their reviews to the Chairman, who will review and announce the results in open session. Any discussion of compensation should be discussed in executive session.

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

None

Executive Session

MOTION: To enter into executive session to discuss strategies with respect to collective bargaining and at the end, to adjourn for the evening. Discussion of any of these in open session would be detrimental to the Town.

(Heitin - Roach) 3-0 **PASSES**

Heitin: Aye

McGrath: Aye

Roach: Aye

Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn at 8:53pm

(Heitin - McGrath) 3-0 **PASSES**

Heitin: Aye

McGrath: Aye

Roach: Aye