

MINUTES
SHARON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
February 6, 2014

The meeting of the Sharon Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:06pm with Chairman Walter “Joe” Roach, Selectman Richard A. Powell, Selectman William A. Heitin and Town Administrator Benjamin E. Puritz.

Max Performance - 2014 Triathlon

Race Director Tim Richmond reviewed last year’s race and described this year’s event, scheduled for August 10, 2014. He added that they will continue to work with Police and Fire. Selectman Powell asked about number of participants. Mr. Richmond is hoping to get 650 this year, which are 50 more than last year. They are going to increase the marketing and advertising.

MOTION: To approve the application by Max Performance Triathlon to conduct their triathlon on August 10, 2014, contingent upon working with Police, Fire, DPW, and Recreation
(Powell – Heitin) 3-0 **PASSES**

Sharon Youth Softball – Banner Placement at Ames Street Fields

Dan Rabatsky from Sharon Youth Softball was present for the discussion. He explained that they are looking to put banners at the Ames Street fields like the ones at Deborah Sampson Park. He has reached out to the temple across the street, in the event that there is any objection and hasn’t heard back. The banners will be up from April 1 – October/November 1.

MOTION: To authorize Sharon Youth Softball to place banners on the backstops and large container at the Ames Street fields
(Powell – Heitin) 3-0 **PASSES**

Community Mural Discussion – Tova Speter

Tova Speter was present to propose Sharon’s first public mural. She is working with the students from the Binah School in Sharon to design and paint a collaborative mural highlighting the themes of friendship, inclusion and love of all people of all abilities. The goal of the mural is to include others in the community in the creation of artwork that raises awareness and inspires people to accept and embrace diversity. They hope to engage community members in the project as well. They have presented their proposal to the Recreation Advisory Committee and the Commission on Disabilities and they are supportive. The preferred location is at Memorial Beach, on the beach house. They are painting on panels, which will be installed on the side of the building. The students introduced themselves. The timeline is to have the mural painted by April and can be installed when it gets warmer. Both sides of the building are good options. The panels need to be weather resistant and are heavy. Chairman Roach suggested moving the mural to various events during 2015, the year of the 250th Anniversary. Ms. Speter suggested creating additions to the mural as a second phase. The Board discussed the design with Ms. Speter. Gary Bluestein from the Recreation Advisory Committee noted that the bandstand side will get a lot of exposure.

MOTION: To authorize the Community Mural Project, as proposed by the Binah School, for Phase 1 on the bandstand side
(Powell – Heitin) 3-0 **PASSES**

Recreation Director Amanda Levasseur – Field Permits, Beach Rules, Beach Procedures & Beach Fees

Recreation Director Amanda Levasseur began by explaining that the **field permit** has been updated to include a tier structure and additional information has been added to ensure proper documentation is submitted. Selectman Heitin noted that we max out our fields until they can't be used anymore. He suggested having non-resident groups/programs be excluded from using the fields and the priority should be for town groups. Recreation Advisory Committee Chairman Gary Bluestein said that the Committee doesn't have a problem with that. Chairman Roach noted that some town residents participate in a non-resident program. Selectman Powell asked if this issue comes up a lot and Ms. Levasseur explained that this issue tends to come up for a particular day event, like for a tournament. DPW Director Eric Hooper noted that SYBSA, Sharon Soccer Association and other groups are still private groups and are not paying for the DPW to maintain the fields. Chairman Roach suggested restricting field use for a period of time until this issue can be looked at further.

MOTION: To approve the Field Permit application and rules and regulations, as submitted, with the amendment of removing "out of town non-profit groups" from Tier 4 and all of Tier 5, until such time as the Fields Study Committee can report back on field usage
(Powell – Heitin) 3-0 **PASSES**

With respect to **beach rules**, the rules have been amended to current operations. The fee was increased from \$20 to \$50. Additional rules include: #5 – to include the dog procedure set forth by the Board of Health; #6 – to allow Coast Guard-approved personal flotation devices (they must be marked Coast Guard Approved, types I, II and III accepted, must be properly fitted and in good condition, subject to review from waterfront personnel); and #15 – to prohibit fishing on the beach during the beach season. Currently we enforce during beach hours and approximately 4 fish hook removals a season. Chairman Roach noted that the state stocks the lake a few times a season and wondered if the state will still want to stock the lake if fishing is restricted from the beach during the beach season. He thinks someone should contact the state.

MOTION: To adopt rule #6 as proposed relative to allowing approved flotation devices at the beach
(Powell – Heitin) 3-0 **PASSES**

MOTION: To approve the rules as submitted, including the changes to rule #5, relative to incorporating the current ban on dogs at the beach, as well as the new rule relative to prohibiting fishing from the beach during the season, with the amendment that we would make the rule relative to fishing subject to getting feedback from the state relative to her ability to impose such ban
(Powell – Heitin) 3-0 **PASSES**

With respect to Memorial Park **beach procedure changes**, there are several issues. The Recreation Department wants to rent Port-O-Potties from May – September at Memorial Park Beach. Funds for these rentals will be available if they do not staff the beach from 6-8pm, as the savings in salary will cover the cost of the rental.

Summer dates should be established from Memorial Day to the weekend before Labor Day (August 24). With staff going to college, little staff remains – of the remaining staff, all would be high school students. It should be noted that the Town's exposure is increased, as we do not have enough staff to properly guard the beach. The Recreation Department surveyed other towns and all surveyed beaches close mid-August for the same reason. They are recommending that the beach close at 6pm – meaning all staff leaves at 6pm but the gates remain open. Checking passes upon entry provides a false sense of security (minimal staffing between the hours of 6-8pm does not provide enough coverage in the event of an emergency). If locking the gates is preferred, based on the survey, the Police Department can lock the gates in the evenings (the Police Department can lock the gates at 9 or 10pm, and unlock the gates at 5am). Last summer the Police Department unlocked the gates at 5am. Ms. Levasseur noted that they are also recommending proposed lighting for the walkway for safety and to enhance visibility for the Police Department to monitor in the evenings. They would also like to extend the existing fencing into the lake – the existing fence ends approximately 4 feet from the water's edge. When the fence was additionally installed, the fence went into the lake to prevent the public from walking around.

Chairman Roach asked how much it would cost to leave a gate guard there until 8:00pm. Ms. Levasseur noted that it cost \$70 additional per day (2 gate guards and a supervisor) for those two hours. Ms. Levasseur noted that the boat launching program is a separate program. The Board asked Ms. Levasseur to cost out the cost of a single gateguard. Ms. Levasseur said that she would have to have a supervisor and that is basically the program that was in place last summer. Selectman Powell said there are two issues – the vandalism and the out-of-towners coming in for an early evening swim. Ms. Levasseur suggested having the Police Department lock the gates at night. Ms. Levasseur said that the extended hours cost \$6,000 for the summer and fully staffed would cost \$20,000. She doesn't need a decision today. The Board will take it under advisement.

With respect to beach procedures at Community Center Beach, the Recreation Department is recommending keeping the gates open during the summer months – similar to Memorial Park Beach, as the exposure is the same as leaving Memorial Park Beach open all summer.

With respect to the **boat launch**, the Recreation Department is recommending that the passes will include stickers for cars and boats and that the boat pass will change from a parking pass to a launching pass and parking will be on a first-come, first-serve basis; separate passes will be sold for trailers and non-trailer boats.

With respect to **beach tags**, they are recommending that the sticker fee be raised to cover processing fees, approximately \$6 per transaction. The fees have not increased since 2009; however, summer staff pay rates increase every year. The only exception was in 2013 when the Recreation Department surveyed pay rates for surrounding towns and froze existing rates. The increased fees would provide extra coverage and better rotations; currently, they are operating at the saturation point. Chairman Roach noted that we will need to advertise for three weeks and conduct a public hearing about the fee increase. They would also like to sell a daily beach pass for Memorial Park Beach; the Recreation Advisory Committee recommended \$10 per adult and \$20 per car, which is the same for Community Center Beach. They would use tablets at Community Center Beach to avoid cash transactions and the same would apply at Memorial Park Beach.

A resident spoke and suggested installing a card reader. Chairman Roach wants Ms. Levasseur to come up with costs and come back and then a public hearing can be scheduled.

MOTION: To approve the rental of the port-o-potties as discussed and to support the summer dates of Memorial Day to the weekend before Labor Day
(Powell – Heitin) 3-0 **PASSES**

Resident Michael Clayman spoke and noted that the students have run out of parking at the high school. The kids are getting ticketed at the boat launch and would like the students to be able to park at the launch during school hours. Mr. Bluestein noted that there are some students parking on the driveway to the launch, creating a problem. The Town Administrator noted that the students cannot rely on using that lot, as it is not plowed in the winter. Mr. Hooper said this is not a solution – it is not the town’s responsibility to provide parking for every student that wants to park to go to school. Mr. Bluestein said that the problem is that the school is overselling the lots – this isn’t a fix. Chairman Roach said that if the money goes into the General Fund and they are overselling spaces, the Town should be talking to the Superintendent about not overselling.

MOTION: To approve for limited parking from February 6 – March 15 legal parking during school hours in the boat launching area
(Heitin – Powell) 3-0 **PASSES**

Sharon Council on Aging – Community Center Pergola CPC Application

Gordon Gladstone from the Friends of the Council on Aging presented the application. There is a large concrete area in the back of the Community Center and it is unused in the summer because there is no shade. They have an appointment with the CPC at the end of the month. They are requesting \$40,000 for this project, although it will likely come in less. They are looking for support from the Board of Selectmen for their application. They are trying to enhance the Community Center.

MOTION: To support the application, when submitted, for the CPC application for the pergola at the Community Center
(Powell – Heitin) 3-0 **PASSES**

Fire Chief Jim Wright – Consulting Fee Proposal – Sharon Public Safety Facility Feasibility Study & Out of State Travel Request

Fire Chief Jim Wright noted that Kaestle Boos believes that a more in-depth civil engineering design of the DPW site and adjacent drainage basin is required due to the site’s compact nature and the fact that any future development will have to take into account the off-site storm water that currently is detained there.

MOTION: To approve the additional consulting fee proposal
(Heitin – Powell) 3-0 **PASSES**

Chief Wright explained his out of state travel request.

MOTION: To authorize the Fire Chief Wright to attend the Congressional Fire Service Institute’s Annual Confernece in Washington, D.C. from April 30 – May 2, 2014
(Powell – Heitin) 3-0 **PASSES**

Rattlesnake Hill Residential Development Proposal – Discussion with Brickstone

Those in attendance included David Lewis from Goulston & Storrs, Brickstone's attorney, Martin Spagot and Jeff Spagot, principals from Brickstone; and Frank Stearns, Brickstone's civil engineer. Also in attendance were Town Counsel Richard Gelerman and associate Cynthia Amara.

Mr. Lewis provided a summary of the history of the project. The project today is a 98 unit single family detached project, entrance solely off Mountain Street, and includes a large donation to the town of open space land. Over the past few months, the project has been studied by Brickstone. The fiscal impacts to the town need to be considered and a consultant has been hired by Brickstone to prepare a report. The single family project is a net win for the Town. The next impact analysis is a traffic study. There is a traffic study being prepared. The third area of analysis is the water infrastructure. Their consultant is looking at this. Lastly, wastewater is an issue.

Brickstone officials have been working with Town Counsel and the Board on a development agreement and good progress is being made. We are also fine-tuning the zoning article, which would allow this project to go as a matter of right. The development agreement includes mitigation provisions such as contribution to the Town's affordable housing fund, open space mitigation, and a bedroom count (3.85/home). It will be polished and fine-tuned and will be shared with the public and other boards.

We have a meeting next week with the Planning Board, then to the Finance Committee and the Board of Health in early March. They hope to get the Board's approval as well. Chairman Roach noted that there was a desire to have more town-wide meetings on this proposal – is that happening? Mr. Lewis replied yes. Chairman Roach asked if Brickstone will pave Mountain Street and Mr. Lewis replied that the consultant is studying this and will have a report shortly. Chairman Roach asked how far along the study is on the water issue. Frank Holmes replied that infrastructure improvements would be less with the smaller development. Selectman Powell asked if they have been talking about the open space land and if they have spoken with the Conservation Administrator. Mr. Lewis replied that they intend to do so moving forward. Selectman Powell reminded Brickstone that they need to have these conversations the sooner, the better.

The Board thanked everyone for their time.

The Board took a brief break at 9:15pm

Approval of Minutes – January 21, 2014

MOTION: To approve the regular and executive session minutes of January 21, 2014
(Powell – Heitin) 3-0 **PASSES**

Banner Request – Brotherhood of Temple Israel

MOTION: To approve the banner request for Brotherhood of Temple Israel for their 34th Annual Auction from March 24-31, 2014 in the 2nd position
(Powell – Heitin) 3-0 **PASSES**

Banner Request – Mass Audubon at Moose Hill

MOTION: To approve the banner request for Mass Audubon at Moose Hill for their “Moose Hill Camp”: Feb. 10-17 (1st position) – April 7-14 (2nd position) – May 20-27 (1st position)
(Powell – Heitin) 3-0 **PASSES**

Banner Request – Historical Society

MOTION: To approve the banner request for the Historical Society from June 9-16, 2014 in the 1st position
(Powell – Heitin) 3-0 **PASSES**

Appointment to the Recreation Advisory Committee

Chairman Roach recused himself from this discussion.

MOTION: To appoint Cheryl Whiting to the Recreation Advisory Committee, for a term ending December 31, 2016
(Powell – Heitin) 2-0-1 **PASSES** (with Chairman Roach abstaining)

Appointment of Special Police Officer

MOTION: To appoint John McGrath as a Special Police Officer, for a term ending December 31, 2014
(Powell – Heitin) 3-0 **PASSES**

Mosquito Control Funding – Fiscal Year 2015

The Town Administrator noted that the budget is \$77,000, which

MOTION: To authorize the Chairman to sign the support of Mosquito Control Funding for Fiscal Year 2015, as discussed
(Powell – Heitin) 3-0 **PASSES**

Dreamfar 10K Request – January 25, 2015

MOTION: To approve Dreamfar’s request to host the Dreamfar 10K on Sunday, January 25, 2015, contingent upon working with DPW and Police
(Powell – Heitin) 3-0 **PASSES**

FY15 Consolidated Proposed Budget Approval

The Town Administrator noted this is the culmination of the discussions we’ve been having over the past several months

MOTION: To approve the FY15 consolidated proposed budget
(Powell – Heitin) 3-0 **PASSES**

2014 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article Review

The Town Administrator noted that the accessory housing placeholder was removed and a placeholder was added to amend the personal watercraft general bylaw.

Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of Meeting

Selectman Heitin said that there are ongoing discussions regarding the possible purchase of 175 Pond Street, which is adjacent to the high school. A proposal could come before the School Committee and the Board of Selectmen. If supported, it would be a capital purchase.

Selectman Heitin noted that the Board received a nice note from a resident on Billings Street, who was very appreciative to the Water Department for restoring service to her house after a hydrant was damaged.

Executive Session – 9:35pm

MOTION: To enter into executive session to discuss a real property transfer and related negotiations, Fire Department collective bargaining, DPW collective bargaining and pending litigation, and at the end, to adjourn for the evening. Discussion of any of these items in open session would be detrimental to the Town.

Roach: Aye
Powell: Aye
Heitin: Aye

Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn at 9:53pm

Roach: Aye
Powell: Aye
Heitin: Aye