

MINUTES
SHARON SELECT BOARD
July 30, 2019

The meeting of the Sharon Select Board was called to order at 7:00 pm in the Town Hearing Room at the Sharon Community Center with Chair William A. Heitin, Select Board Member Emily E. Smith-Lee, and Town Administrator Frederic E. Turkington, Jr. The meeting commenced with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence in tribute to Walter (Joe) Roach, Jr.

Update by Transportation Advisory Board

An update was presented by Transportation Advisory Board Chair, David Straus. Mr. David Fixler and Mr. Neil Coplan of the Transportation Advisory Board along with Mr. Peter O’Cain, Town Engineer, were also in attendance. Mr. Strauss explained that the Advisory Board was recently provided an assessment report by Mr. Tom Houston of Professional Services Corporation. Mr. Houston offered a brief overview of the transportation impact assessment which analyzed the potential safety, access and parking improvements for the Sharon Commuter Rail Station. Potential expansion of the parking supply by up to 200 additional parking spaces in the Northbound/To Boston parking lot was also evaluated. He provided information on the data collected during the study which included an extensive area-wide roadway network encompassing two signalized and 13 unsignalized intersections.

In summary, the study found that parking expansion by 200 spaces is feasible and should include mitigation of increases in delay at the three intersection locations in immediate proximity to the site including the Chestnut St.; northbound/To Boston side parking drive station intersection; and the Chestnut St./Depot St. intersection. These increases in delay can be effectively minimized by reconstructing these intersections. An illustration titled Access and Safety Improvement Plan was provided.

The existing Sharon Commuter Rail Station site is characterized by numerous conflicts among vehicles, pedestrians and bicycles. The site does not provide dedicated drop-off locations for drop-off and pick-up, it doesn’t provide for controlled pedestrian crossings of on-site access drives, and it does not provide dedicated bicycle facilities. The Access and Safety Improvement plan provides for designated drop-off lanes, provides a roundabout to control vehicle conflicts, provides for controlled and protected pedestrian access, and provides dedicated bicycle paths/lanes.

Mr. Straus explained that the Advisory Board will take time to digest the data from the study. They will also put a plan in place to survey riders and continue assessment of parking usage. Of particular concern, installation of signage prohibiting standing idle at the station was discussed. It was agreed that Mr. O’Cain would investigate such signage and seek authority for installation.

Update on Possible Acquisition of Rattlesnake Hill

Mr. Heitin explained that work has been ongoing pertaining to potential acquisition of the Rattlesnake Hill property with Sharon’s Legislative Delegation. Access has been granted by the property owner for a tour with potential partners in the acquisition. This tour is being scheduled at this time. The Board will continue to provide periodic updates when information arises that can be relayed in an open forum.

Discussion and Vote on Fall Special Election

A special election is necessary to fill the vacancy left by the passing of Select Board member, Joe Roach. A schedule of dates has been provided by the Town Clerk. Nomination papers for the seat will be available in the next few weeks and will be due by October 1, 2019.

Ms. Smith-Lee acknowledged the fact that although this process seems to be happening rather soon, it is necessary to work quickly due to election laws.

MOTION: To call for a special election on November 19, 2019 and authorize the Town Clerk to place the Select Board vacancy on said special election ballot.

(Smith-Lee - Heitin) 2-0 **PASSES**

Consider and Vote the Maximum Useful Life of Departmental Equipment

The following equipment is to be financed with the proceeds of the equipment bonds authorized by Town Meeting vote of May 6, 2019.

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Borrowing Amount</u>	<u>Maximum Useful Life</u>
Heights Elementary Generator	\$393,250	20 Years
Dump Truck and Excavator	\$370,000	15 Years
Special Education Vans	\$112,500	10 Years
School Security Cameras	\$88,440	10 Years
School Furniture	\$85,000	20 Years
School Window Film	\$50,875	10 Years

MOTION: To approve the maximum useful life of the departmental equipment listed to be financed with the proceeds of the equipment bonds authorized by votes of the Town passed May 6, 2019 is hereby determined pursuant to M.G.L. c.44 §7(1) as outlined above.

(Smith-Lee - Heitin) 2-0 **PASSES**

Report of the Town Administrator

Mr. Turkington reminded the Board that Town Offices will likely be closed on Friday, August 23 and Monday, August 26 to facilitate the move from the existing building into the new Town Office building. An official vote to do so will happen at the next meeting of the Board. Work is ongoing with Sharon Community Television in updating their access agreement to reflect the change in state law to facilitate PEG funds to pass through the Town. Work continues with the State regarding the land swap for the Civil Defense building in researching property and an alternate site. Responses to the cell tower RFP are being finalized. The Board may recall that the revenue stream for most cell sites were sold to Tower Co., LLC. It is expected that the new Town Office building will be turned over by the contractor next week. The move from the existing building is expected to take place between August 23 and 26. All offices will be ready to conduct business in the new space on August 27.

Review and approve consent calendar

- I. Vote to approve minutes of July 9, 2019
- II. Vote to approve Common Victualler's License – Pizza Market (new management)
- III. Vote to approve out-of-state travel for Recreation Director to attend 2019 NRPA conference in Baltimore, MD, September 24-26, 2019
- IV. Vote to approve out-of-state travel for Assistant Recreation Director to attend second year of Supervisor's Management School in Wheeling WV, November 3-7, 2019
- V. Vote to approve banner requests for:
 - a. Sharon Adult Center New Lakeside Exhibit – August 5-12, 2019 in first position and waive fee
 - b. Bilingual Montessori School of Sharon Autism Speaks Seminar – August 5-12, 2019 in the second position
- VI. Vote to approve amended block party request to close Dunbar Street at Ames Street, Park Road and in the vicinity of 23 Dunbar on August 18, 2019 from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm

MOTION: To approve the consent calendar.
(Smith-Lee – Heitin) 2-0 **PASSES**

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

Vote to approve amended block party request to close Dunbar Street - voted as part of the consent calendar.

Adjournment to Executive Session

MOTION: To enter into executive session at 7:45 pm for the purpose of discussing possible acquisition of 66 South Main Street and Rattlesnake Hill then adjourn for the evening immediately following. Discussion of these items in open session may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Town.

Roll Call Vote:
Smith-Lee: Aye
Heitin: Aye
2-0 **PASSES**

List of Documents

1. Transportation Impact Assessment Executive Summary
2. Email correspondence
3. Special town election schedule
4. Notice of Select Board vacancy
5. M.G.L c.41 §10
6. Certification of maximum useful life of departmental equipment
7. Minutes
8. Common Victualler license application
9. Memorandum
10. Commission on Disabilities present membership list
11. Banner Request Forms (2)
12. Access and Safety Improvement Plan
13. Correspondence
14. Amended block party request form