

MINUTES
SHARON SELECT BOARD
December 17, 2019

The meeting of the Sharon Select Board was called to order at 7:00 pm in the second floor Meeting Room at the Sharon Town Hall with Chair William A. Heitin; Clerk Emily E. Smith-Lee; Member Hanna Switekowski; Town Administrator Frederic E. Turkington, Jr.; and Assistant to the Town Administrator Lauren Barnes in attendance. The meeting commenced with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Friends of the Council on Aging Raffle

Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone expressed their thanks to the Select Board for allowing the Friends of the Sharon Council on Aging to hold this annual raffle at their meeting this evening. This group holds two fundraisers for Council on Aging assistance for seniors, the membership drive in April and this raffle. Thirty four (34) items were raffled. Ms. Smith-Lee made note of how many names were included in the raffle basket and would like to thank everyone who participated or donated in support of this cause.

Board and Committee candidate interview – Mena Mesiha, Candidate for Board of Health

Chair Heitin expressed thanks on behalf of the Board to Mr. Mesiha for volunteering. Mr. Mesiha explained that he is an orthopedic surgeon and has spoken with other members of Board of Health. He understands the role of the Board of Health with respect to septic and inspections. He also understands that the Board of Health is hoping to expand role of the Board of Health in two areas, one with flu shots to more of a health fair and the other, to encompass an education component.

The Board acknowledges that Mr. Mesiha has been active in town prior to his to this. Mr. Mesiha explained that he has always had an interest in public health, this seems to be a natural way to proceed given the vacancies on the Board.

Chair Heitin explained it is the Board's policy not to make an appointment on the same evening as interviews are made but will do so on January 7 at the next scheduled meeting of the Select Board.

Discussion of North Main Street paving

Mr. Heitin explained that the Board had a brief discussion at their meeting on December 3 surrounding an ongoing issue on North Main Street regarding paving after a water main break. He apologized if there was a lack of communication to the residents of the area affected. The Board felt it was necessary to let the residents have ten minutes or so to address their concerns.

Mr. Heitin also explained that the Board is in discussions about conducting a potential study of some sort to study an area of North Main Street as well as the impact to that area but also to understand impact to different parts of major roads and vibrations.

Ms. Michelle Lucie of 208 South Main Street addressed the Board. She explained that the residents of 207 and 197 North Main Street were unable to attend this evening due to the weather. However, the residents of, 203, 199 and 196 North Main Street are in the audience this evening. Ms. Lucie explained that indeed, like Mr. Turkington explained on December 3, they do feel vibrations when large trucks are braking on the downhill portion of the road. However, she explained, vibrations are also felt when empty trucks are simply coasting down the road as well as on severe days when large trucks are travelling up the hill toward Sharon center. She maintained that this quarter mile stretch of road sees a traffic volume of over 14,000 vehicles per day. The grade or incline of the hill that plays a major role in the vibrations that are felt. In 2016, the repair in front of 197 was made. After 36 hours, the trench was paved. The residents of 197 North Main Street made a midnight call to

DPW stating that the steel plates covering the trench were sliding down the hill. DPW proceeded to complete an emergency repair in the middle of the night without the benefit of having adequately settled. Ms. Lucie stated that Mr. Turkington reported that he could not feel any vibration while standing in front of one of the homes experiencing these vibrations is true because they the vibrations aren't experienced beyond the home's foundations. Ms. Lucie has learned that a truck's suspension can create an axel hop as it passes over irregularities in the road. This axel hop is amplified on downward slope. The vibration caused by the axel hop passes through the ground until the first thing it reaches, in this case, the affected home foundations. Ms. Lucie explained that her last correspondence to Mr. Turkington, Mr. O'Cain, and the Select Board was a result of her home shaking 12 times in a 15-minute period. She has experienced her dresser cracking and items falling from in the home, cracks running along ceilings. These experiences aren't simply a nuisance but rather serious structural concerns. Ms. Lucie lived in her home for 7 years prior to water main break without experiencing the vibrations that are being realized after this stretch of road being repaired. It appears that there are many factors which alter when the vibrations are the strongest such as during periods of temperature changes and water saturation. Repeated vibration over long periods of time will cause these structures to fail. Ms. Lucie agrees that something needs to be done to remedy this situation. She understands that any remediation will not happen until spring at the earliest, but it is her expectation that this will be the last winter she will have to deal with this issue. She appreciates the Board allowing her to address the erroneous statements made at the December 3 meeting and wishes to ensure that all proper facts are made available in surveying the area. She also offered her assistance if needed after deciding on a firm to investigate these happenings.

Mr. Heitin explained that the Board will have full-blown agenda item in the future once a plan is in place and has a better understanding of what mitigation might be. At this time, the Board is trying to identify a firm who can adequately evaluate this matter. Although he is happy to hear from other residents in the area, he expects that the consensus will be that they are experiencing it also.

Ms. Smith-Lee raised a question which eventually may be better put to whichever research team is selected but Ms. Lucie suggested that her research found that these vibrations stop at the first thing they reach. She asked how far from the road are the houses experiencing the vibrations. Ms. Lucie responded that her home is not far from the street and it sits further down the hill as well.

The resident of 196 South Main Street explained that their house is wider, and the front of house gets more vibration than back of the house. These residents don't hear much in vehicle sound but rather vibration sounds. Mr. Heitin thanked the residents in attendance and explained that this item would be moved forward.

Traffic Rules and Orders - Cheryl Drive and North Main Street

A memo was provided to the Board from Town Engineer, Peter O'Cain, which the Board has had as part of their meeting materials for some time now. Mr. O'Cain and engineering staff followed up with the neighbors in that area and has put forth the consensus. There were a number of thoughts and ideas for safety at this intersection including a traffic signal. It was determined that a traffic signal at this intersection would have other safety concerns associated with it.

It was explained that the recommendation is to install a right turn only sign at Cheryl and North Main Street and install a solar powered LED sign indicating "caution traffic crossing ahead". Those are the two modifications.

MOTION: To approve the recommendation put forth by the Town Engineer.
(Smith-Lee - Switekowski) **3-0 PASSES**

Discussion and selection of Solar Design Review candidates

A number of candidates applied previously for this review committee which will work alongside the Energy Advisory Committee. It was requested that those candidates put forth candidates, three representatives for East Elementary, two representatives for Gavin's Pond site. Ms. Smith-Lee stated also that there was a request from Sharon Soccer Association to be included as they have been involved from the outset.

Ms. Valerie White asked and it was explained that the Soccer Association request was submitted separately. It was felt that the representatives selected will adequately represent all areas affected. Mr. Aronson stated that the Vendor has requested comments in advance of the January 8 meeting if possible.

MOTION: To appoint Ted Galeota, Siddarth Jeevan, Ron Goodman, Lauren Smith, Julie Rowe, Paul Wen, Colin Barbera, and Paul Driscoll to the Solar Design Review Committee.

(Heitin – Smith-Lee) **3-0 PASSES**

Updated Memorandum of Understanding – Old Wolomolopoag Street

Mr. Heitin explained that this has been a long drawn out negotiation involving a parcel on Old Wolomolopoag. The Board approved an original MOU in maybe June of last year. This has been reviewed and discussed with Town Counsel. At this time, all parties are happy with outcome and resolution of what will and what won't happen in the area. Since lots created, one is pending sale. This MOU allows for a private driveway.

MOTION: To authorize the Chair to sign the Memorandum of Understanding presented on behalf of the Select Board and to approve and sign any changes necessary before the end of the year.

(Smith-Lee – Switekowski) **3-0 PASSES**

Consideration of Reactivation of Economic Development Committee

Department staff reached out to previous members of the former Economic Development Committee and received feedback as to who may be interested in serving again. At this time, the Board is awaiting some to make a final decision, but it appears there will be a need to ask for additional help. The suggested size of the committee is seven. This topic will be revisited in January to formalize a date for accepting applications and holding candidate interviews.

Rattlesnake Hill Purchase and Sales Agreement with Brickstone, LLC

This item will be tabled as the agreement is not ready at this time. It was recommended that a meeting be posted for Friday morning to address this sole item. It was explained that the seller understands that there may be a delay in funding the escrow without a signed PSA and finalizing the details for the four lots.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Turkington reported that Town Clerk Marlene Chused will be retiring after the next Town Election. This opens the opportunity for interested residents as this is an elected position with a three year term. Nomination papers will be available on January 13. The Finance Committee sets the salary for this position and is conducting a salary survey now.

Greg Meister, Conservation Administrator, has announced his retirement effective January 17 after over 25 years of service. This job description will be reviewed with the Personnel Board next week.

Mr. Turkington has conducted interviews with Council on Aging staff and Rob Maidman for the social worker position left by Susan Edinger's retirement effective January 10.

Mr. Turkington delivered the bonding presentation which was discussed at the Finance Committee meeting as well as a report Krishan put together which outlines the November 30 fund balance.

Hilltop securities was asked to provide debt models for the Library and first phase of the High School construction projects. They provided three different scenarios: one with equal principal payments, one with declining payments annually and the third is a hybrid plan. Hilltop was asked to identify opportunities to take advantage of historically low interest rates.

Mr. Turkington provided a quick overview of Hilltop's presentation. The Board will need to make a decision as to which avenue should be pursued at the next meeting but Sharon is in an advantageous position for borrowing.

Mr. Heitin announced that the official ribbon cutting ceremony at the new Town Offices will take place at 5pm on Thursday evening. All are welcome. There will be an open house from 5-7 pm where residents will be able to look through the new building and speak with the Board and members of Town Hall staff.

Review and approve consent calendar

- I. Minutes
 - a. December 3, 2019 minutes
 - b. December 3, 2019 Executive Session minutes
 - c. December 10, 2019 minutes
- II. Vote to appoint Sam Reef as Alternate Member of Zoning Board of Appeals with a term expiring on December 31, 2022
- III. Vote to approve and sign the 2020 Alcohol licenses for:
 - a. American Legion
 - b. Bread N Butter
 - c. Coriander Bistro
 - d. Mandarin Taste
 - e. Mick Morgan's
 - f. Sapphire Manor & Inn
 - g. Sharon Country Club
 - h. Sharon Market
 - i. Sichuan Gourmet
 - j. Simcha
 - k. The Cape Club of Sharon
 - l. The Square Kitchen and Bar
 - m. VFW Post
 - n. Vinovations
- IV. Vote to approve and sign the 2020 Common Victualler's licenses for:
 - a. Angel's Café
 - b. Assorti, LLC
 - c. Best Western plus The Inn at Sharon
 - d. BP Food Mart
 - e. Coriander Bistro
 - f. Dunkin' Donuts
 - g. Mandarin Taste, Inc.
 - h. Mick Morgan's
 - i. Olive's Deli and Grill
 - j. Pizza Market
 - k. Sapphire Manor/Sapphire Estate
 - l. Sharon Country Club
 - m. Sichuan Gourmet
 - n. Simcha
 - o. Starbucks/Shaw's Supermarkets
 - p. The Cape Club of Sharon
 - q. The Square Kitchen & Bar
 - r. Todd's Deli, Inc.
 - s. Ward's Berry Farm

- V. Vote to approve and sign the 2020 Class I Auto Dealers licenses for:
i. Herb Chambers Lexus of Sharon
- VI. Vote to approve and sign the 2020 Class II Auto Dealers license for:
i. Herb Chambers Lexus of Sharon
ii. DC Auto Sales
- VII. Vote to approve and sign the 2020 Taxi licenses for:
i. Barbar Saade d/b/a The Right Ride
- VIII. Vote to approve and sign the 2020 Hackney licenses for:
i. Barbar Saade d/b/a The Right Ride
- IX. Vote to approve the request from the Massapoag Yacht Club to set out race markers on the lake for the 2020 season
- X. Vote to approve a gelt drop and Menorah lighting ceremony to be held at Sharon Town Hall on December 22, 2019 and the display of a Menorah in Sharon square during the Chanukah festival from December 22 to December 30, 2019
- XI. Vote to approve a one-day liquor license for a collation at the Sharon Community Center, date to be determined (if before January 7, 2020)

MOTION: To approve the consent calendar.
(Smith-Lee-Switlekowski) 3-0 **PASSES**

Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn at 8:12.
(Smith-Lee – Switlekowski) **3-0 PASSES**

List of Documents

- Application
- Correspondence
- Memorandum from Peter O’Cain
- Community discussion notes
- List of Solar Design Review candidates
- Memorandum of Understanding
- Economic Development Committee draft charge
- Minutes
- Correspondence