

MINUTES
SHARON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
October 17, 2017

The meeting of the Sharon Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:00pm in the Town Hearing Room at the Sharon Community Center with Chairman John J. McGrath, Clerk William A. Heitin, Selectman Walter B. Roach, Town Administrator Frederic E. Turkington, Jr. and Assistant to the Town Administrator Lauren Barnes. The meeting commenced with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Beach Fees/Policies Public Forum

MOTION: To open the public hearing at 7:01pm
(Heitin - Roach) 3-0 **PASSES**

Recreation Director Linda Berger appeared before the Board. She noted that the purpose of the meeting is to solicit feedback as to how to restructure the fees and policies in anticipation of the 2018 season. She and the Recreation Advisory Committee intend to take the information under consideration and will come to a future meeting, hopefully sometime in January, with proposals for the Board's consideration.

Chairman McGrath invited the public to speak.

A resident asked what the current policy is. Ms. Berger explained that this year, there was a separate car pass and pass for each individual. She also explained that the staffing structure needed to be adjusted to address the minimum wage, among other issue.

Selectman Heitin noted that for the past 10 years, the town only had a car pass; prior to that, we reverted back to the policy from years' past – separate car and tag pass. He noted that there is an approximately \$8,600 surplus from this season. Gary Bluestein, chairman of the Recreation Advisory Committee, noted that the town has to have money available for the start of the beach season, as it crosses over two fiscal years. Ms. Berger noted that it costs approximately \$1,200 a day to operate the beach during the summer, which is the equivalent of 85 days. She explained that some of the surplus is due to five days of inclement weather. Veteran's Memorial Beach is open 85 days, Memorial Day through the week before school begins, and Community Center Beach for 60 days, from the end of the school year through mid-August, weather permitting. Lifeguard patterns have been increased to ensure the safety of beach visitors, and the minimum wage increased one dollar per hour for the past three consecutive years.

Chairman McGrath noted that some of the issues raised by residents over the summer was the fee structure, and the inability to access the lake by the Gunhouse Street gate to go for a walk. He has seen a lot of recommendations on Facebook and by some people on the street. There are some interesting ideas proposed that need to be explored.

Heather Zelevinsky, 18 Fales Road, reviewed the numbers provided by the Recreation Department and suggests that people are going to pay only so much for the lake. She suggests either adding the fee to the tax base or to implement fees for out-of-town residents. Mr. Turkington clarified that for a family of four, the fee structure was essentially the same between the 2016 and 2017 season. He pointed out that the beach costs \$125,000 per year to operate.

Selectman Roach wonders if the town should go back to the prior fee structure – one fee per car.

Camille Barron of Mansfield Street asked about bringing out-of-towners the beach in their car, and Selectman Heitin said that it is never a problem to do that. Mark Jordan of Glendale Road believes that the cost to operate the beach should be built into the tax base. Hana Jenner, 20 Glendale Road, believes that this year's fees were complicated. She believes it is unfair to walkers and bikers and they should not have to pay, or at least a reduced rate. Mike Sherman, 19 Belcher Street, observed fewer people at the beach this year, and anecdotally, he heard people felt excluded. He agrees that this should be added to the town's budget.

Chairman McGrath asked Mr. Turkington if he knew what a potential impact to the taxpayers would be if it were built into the tax base. Mr. Turkington explained that Lake Massapoag is a Great Pond of the Commonwealth. By using the fee structure we typically use, we can manage resident use of Veterans' Memorial Beach; if it was built into the taxes, then it may not be possible to limit non-residents to Community Center Beach.

Ms. Berger noted that Sharon performed an analysis of what other communities do for their lakes, and Sharon's structure is similar to what other communities do.

Chairman McGrath suggested having a car pass with no individual tags for the next season.

Mr. Sherman wondered if the town could subsidize a portion of the beach operating expenses. Ms. Jenner asked if the town has considered using volunteers to act as gate guards; this would be difficult to do. A resident from Beach Road suggests opening up the beach for a season on a trial basis. Chairman McGrath has seen from his experience that crime has increased by leaving the gates open during the summer season. Steve Lesco, 25 Elliot Street and a member of the Recreation Advisory Committee, noted that the paid staff also cleans the beach area.

There was a discussion about security during this past season and in years' past.

Mr. Jordan wonders if a compromise would be to sell car passes and allow people on foot to come in for free. A woman noted that there is a possibility that a lot of people that don't regularly use the beach will complain. Todd Arnold, 70 Cedar Street, asked if the decision to put the beach operations would have to go to Town Meeting. Mr. Turkington explained that the Recreation Department's budget would increase by \$125,000, and then the allocation to other departments, including the schools, would decrease.

Chairman McGrath appreciates hearing from residents on this issue, and the feedback will be reviewed and considered, and hopes to be able to come up with a reasonable proposal.

MOTION: To close the public hearing at 7:40pm
(Heitin - Roach) 3-0 **PASSES**

The Board took a brief recess to allow for visitors to leave the room.

Energy Reduction Plan Presentation

Axum Teferra, an Energy Planner and Climate Specialist from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, appeared before the Board.

Earlier this year, the Town of Sharon was awarded an MA DOER Municipal Energy Technical Assistance (META) grant, which enabled it to work with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) to develop an Energy Reduction Plan for its Green Communities application. Prior to seeking Green Communities

Designation, the Town of Sharon had already taken many steps to reduce its energy use in municipal facilities. Those measures have given the Town a great lead in its sustainability efforts. With diligent work by Town Departments and the School District, energy use has declined 21% from FY2015 through FY2017. Ms. Teferra went on to describe what work has been done to date to create this plan. If accepted into the Green Communities program, the town will receive a \$150,000 annual grant and then be eligible to apply for other competitive grants.

Ms. Teferra noted that the town is already in compliance with four out of the five requirements to be designated as a Green Community, with the remaining requirement being the adoption of the Energy Reduction Plan by the Town and School department. She explained that this plan will get the town to an additional 3% energy savings; it is not rigid and can evolve and change. Mr. Turkington noted that five buildings were not incorporated into the plan because the town is exploring the future of five municipal buildings – the High School, the fire station, Town Hall, One School Street and the library.

Resident Heather Zelevinsky asked if Green Communities funding could be used for sidewalks. Ms. Teferra replied that sidewalks are not part of the program at this time. Resident Silas Fyler asked about the lighting at the pumping stations and whether or not they looked at the stoplights. Ms. Teferra replied that the energy audits were performed by Prism Energy Services, and does not believe that the street lights were reviewed. Mr. Fyler went on to state that he feels that buildings should be monitored more regularly for energy usage. Mr. Turkington said that he and Ken Wertz have discussed hiring a part-time energy manager.

MOTION: To adopt the Energy Reduction Plan for Green Communities as presented
(Heitin – Roach) 3-0 **PASSES**

2017 Special Town Meeting Discussion

Mr. Turkington told the Board that there is a section in the Business District D zoning article that requires that the Zoning Board of Appeals, acting as the site plan approval authority, submit the proposed site plan to the Planning Board for its review and comments.

The Town's free cash was certified at \$4.385 million. He and staff are also looking at closed capital projects to apply toward funding for the high school schematic funding and Town Hall articles. We have a turn back from the Heights Elementary School roof project, which will help reduce the need to use free cash.

The public is invited to tour Town Hall on October 26 from 5:30-7:30pm. The Pre-Town Meeting meeting is on October 30 at 7:30pm in the Town Hearing Room at the Community Center. The Board will move its October 31 meeting to October 30, just prior to the Pre-Town Meeting meeting.

Chairman McGrath explained that a video tour was completed yesterday and encourages people to watch it. He is also willing to give people individual tours.

Consent Calendar

- I. Vote to approve regular session minutes of September 19, 2017 and October 3, 2017
- II. Vote to approve the following banner requests:
 - a. Sharon Garden Club Plant Sale – May 7-14, 2018 in 1st position
 - b. Friends of the Sharon Public Library Annual Book Sale – May 14-21, 2018 in 1st position
- III. Vote to sign the Host Community Agreement for medical marijuana for Four Daughters Compassionate Care at 1200 General Edwards Highway

MOTION: To approve the October 17, 2017 consent calendar, as read and understood
(Heitin - Roach) 3-0 **PASSES**

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Turkington reported the following:

- The bid for solid waste and recycling services contract is out on the street. There is a pre-bid meeting on October 26th. He has sent the bid to five vendors. The deadline is November 7. He hopes to have the analysis of the proposals completed by the first meeting in December.
- Interviews for the Assistant Recreation Director position have concluded and he hopes to have more information about the selected candidate soon.
- The Payroll/Benefits Administrator position has been filled with a staff person from the Department of Public Works.

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

Public announcements:

- Senator Walter Timilty will hold office hours on October 24 from 11:30am to 12:30pm in the Adult Center at the Community Center.
- The Veterans' Day program will take place on November 11 from 11:00am to 1:00pm in Post Office Square.
- Town offices will be closed on October 27 for employee development. The library will open at 1:00pm.
- The Public Safety Building Open House will be held on October 28 from 10:00am - 1:00pm.

Executive Session - 8:15pm

MOTION: To enter into Executive Session to conduct strategy session in preparations for negotiations with non-union personnel and at the end, to adjourn of the evening. Discussion of this item in open session would be detrimental to the bargaining position of the Town.

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

McGrath: Aye
Heitin: Aye
Roach: Aye

Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn at 8:40pm
(Heitin - Roach) 3-0 **PASSES**

McGrath: Aye
Heitin: Aye
Roach: Aye

List of Documents:

- Narrative regarding beach fees from Linda Berger
- Waterfront fees spreadsheet
- Town of Sharon Energy Reduction Plan

- Objectives and Priorities for October through September
- Email correspondence from Richard Gelerman, Esq. regarding Sharon Gallery Article
- Final Special Town Meeting 2017 Warrant
- September 19, 2017 Board of Selectmen Minutes
- October 3, 2017 Board of Selectmen Minutes
- Banner request applications: Sharon Garden Club and Friends of the Sharon Public Library
- Host Community Agreement with Four Daughters Compassionate Care, Inc. for the property at 1200 General Edwards Highway
- Host Community Financials – October 6, 2015
- Report of the Town Administrator – Friday, October 13, 2017
- 195 Gavins Pond Subdivision plan
- Request for Proposals for Solid Waste & Recycling
- Miscellaneous Correspondence