

MINUTES
SHARON SELECT BOARD
May 11, 2021

The meeting of the Sharon Select Board was called to order at 7:00 pm by Select Board Chair Emily Smith-Lee remotely via Zoom. Select Board members William A. Heitin and Hanna R. Switekowski were in attendance as was 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.

Recognition of Asian American and Pacific Islander heritage month

In honor of Asian American and Pacific Islander heritage month, and the contributions made by Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in our country and our community, the Select Board prepared and read a proclamation recognizing May as Asian American and Pacific Islander heritage month.

Vote to approve acceptance of donations and recognize fundraising for pickleball

Linda Berger, Recreation Director wished to thank and recognize Jack Yee, Jeff Scholssberg, and Rick Schantz for leading and organizing a successful fundraising campaign to construct and install four new dedicated pickleball courts at Deborah Sampson. In total, they have raised \$132,975 in donations from individual contributions from the Sharon pickleball community.

The Sharon Recreation Department would like to acknowledge the gift and the generosity from each of the donors who have helped make this project a reality.

MOTION: To accept donations for four dedicated pickleball courts at Deborah Sampson park.
(Heitin-Switekowski)

Heitin: AYE
Switekowski: AYE
Smith-Lee: AYE
3-0 **PASSES**

Street Art in Sharon promotion

Ms. Hana Jenner of 20 Glendale Road gave a brief presentation on an event she is spearheading, Street Art in Sharon. She presented a flyer which gave details on the event which will take place between May 15 and May 23. The intent of event is to display art on the front lawns of residences in the areas of Ames Street and Highland Street where those interested can stroll and view the artwork. The Board encouraged Ms. Jenner to keep the Sharon Police Department informed in case they had any concerns about the pedestrian traffic.

The Board thanked Ms. Jenner for her presentation and wished her much success with this event.

Update from Sharon Independence Day Celebration Committee

Tim Traut-Savino of the Sharon Independence Day Celebration Committee was in attendance to explain, with much regret, that the SIDCC is recommending that the Sharon Five Mile Road Race and the July 3rd celebration be cancelled this year. Given Governor Baker's May 18, 2021 phased reopening guidelines, the committee voted unanimously on May 19 to make this recommendation. The Board shared their regret with understanding that limiting attendance would be a monumental undertaking. They thanked Mr. Traut-Savino for his time this evening.

Update from Energy Advisory Committee on municipal aggregation

Mr. Dan Rabatsky of the Energy Advisory Committee provided an update on the progress made with municipal aggregation of electrical energy so far. He reported that so far, 4217 residents and small businesses are participating in the program.

Establish and appoint members of the Master Plan Implementation Committee

MOTION: To accept the recommendation of the Planning Board to create a temporary advisory committee known as the Master Plan Implementation Committee consisting of five members recommended by the Planning Board with responsibility to coordinate the work of boards, committees and departments to generate policies, proposed by-laws and other documents necessary to implement the goals and recommendations contained in the Imagine Sharon master plan; and further, to appoint the following individuals for terms expiring June 30, 2024: Pasqualino Pannone, Rob Maidman, Susan Price, Laura Smead, and Signe Peterson Flieger.

(Heitin-Switekowski)

Heitin: AYE

Switekowski: AYE

Smith-Lee: AYE

3-0 **PASSES**

Consider mental health referral service

Ms. Marcy Kaplan had requested by email that the Town consider subscribing to a mental health provider referral service with the William James College. There was information provided for the Board to review in the meeting materials. Mr. Turkington advised that he has been in touch with Sharon Substance Prevention Committee about the possibility of funding the service. He will provide additional information on the program and the cost as they become known. The Board is interested in the possibility for providing this service on a town-wide basis considering the impact to mental health due to COVID-19.

Outdoor dining at Sharon Community Center contract and one-day liquor licenses

Linda Berger, Recreation Director and Mr. Avi Shemtov of the Chubby Chickpea and Tapped Beer Truck were in attendance to provide and update on the response provided to the RFP requested by the Recreation Department. The Board had previously agreed to consider an outdoor dining venue on the lawn of the Recreation Center to interested local restaurants to provide some relief due to the impact of COVID-19 at Mr. Shemtov's suggestion. The Recreation Department drafted an RFP and the only response came from Mr. Shemtov. The scope of the response would provide outdoor dining at the Community Center on Thursday, Friday and Sunday evenings between Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends with the possibility of Friday and Sunday evenings into October and a Sunday brunch option.

The Board is looking forward to this program and anticipates it to be interested and successful.

MOTION: To approve outdoor dining at Sharon Community Center, as well as the award of an agreement and one-day liquor licenses to the Chubby Chickpea Mobile, LLC and Tapped Beer Truck, LLC for the period of May 27, 2021 through October 1, 2021 per the response to the Request for Proposals issued by the Recreation Department.

(Heitin-Switekowski)

Heitin: AYE

Switekowski: AYE

Smith-Lee: AYE

3-0 **PASSES**

Discuss draft Governance Study Committee charge and composition

This item is a continuation of discussions from previous meetings about establishing a committee to study possible changes to the governance model in Town. After a brief discussion, the Board wished to table the matter so that they could further consider the scope and composition of the committee.

Vote to settle SMEA grievance

MOTION: To approve the settlement agreement with a member of the Sharon Municipal Employees Association as negotiated.
(Heitin-Switekowski)

Heitin: AYE
Switekowski: AYE
Smith-Lee: AYE
3-0 **PASSES**

Vote to approve letter requesting Special Act legislation for name change to Select Board

Ms. Smith-Lee explained that this is the last step in formalizing the name change from Board of Selectmen to Select Board.

MOTION: To approve the letter requesting Special Act legislation for name change to Select Board.
(Heitin-Switekowski)

Heitin: AYE
Switekowski: AYE
Smith-Lee: AYE
3-0 **PASSES**

Review and approve the consent calendar

- I. Vote to approve the regular and Executive session minutes of April 27, 2021
- II. Vote to approve the following road races:
 - a. June 6, 2021 road race for Young Israel of Sharon
 - b. May 16, 2021 road race for Sharon High School Class of 2023
 - c. August 15, 2021 MAX performance triathlon
- III. Vote to appoint Police Chief Donald Brewer as Constable with a term expiring December 31, 2024
- IV. Vote to approve the following one-day liquor licenses:
 - a. Mark and Lauren Goloboy on May 15, 2021 at Camp Everwood
 - b. Young Israel of Sharon on June 6, 2021 at Young Israel, 100 Ames Street
- V. Vote to approve the following recipient of the Helen Eaton Griffin memorial scholarship
 - a. Mattheu Avelar
- VI. Vote to award the following SERSG contracts:
 - a. Office supplies to W. B. Mason for a 2-year period commencing July 1, 2021
 - b. Paper items to W. B. Mason for a 1-year period commencing July 1, 2021

- VII. Vote to approve and sign a contract with EMS for kayak rentals at Lake Massapoag for the period of May 31, 2021 through September 6, 2021
- VIII. Vote to approve the amended Intermunicipal Agreement with Norwood and Walpole for a shared Energy Manager
- IX. Vote to approve and sign the SMEA contract

Ms. Switekowski requested that item II be held. It was explained that due to updated guidance from the State that these events are able to be held.

MOTION: To approve the consent calendar.
(Heitin-Switekowski)

Heitin: AYE
Switekowski: AYE
Smith-Lee: AYE
3-0 **PASSES**

Report of the Town Administrator

Mr. Turkington provided the following update.

- 2021 Annual Town Election. Early voting has been approved for the Annual Town Election on Monday-Thursday, May 10-13, with extended hours of 7A to 8P on Tuesday, May 11. Election day is Tuesday, May 18th from 7AM to 8PM at the high school gymnasium.
- Well testing and water restrictions. Laboratory results for a second round of tests will not be available until the end of next week (May 14), or potentially early in the following week given demand at labs. DEP didn't anticipate as many positive hits requiring immediate confirmatory testing nor foresaw the number of inconsistent results from duplicate tests. Split sample tests using different labs have yielded different results causing some to question the accuracy of the tests. Expect an update on this item on the May 25th Board agenda.
- IMA for energy manager services. Also on the consent agenda is a request for approval of the intermunicipal agreement with Norwood and Walpole for the provision of energy manager services. The workload of David Ruggiero will be shared among the three towns, enhancing knowledge while reducing the cost to Sharon.
- Energy Advisory Committee update. The committee is exploring solar generation projects for the new high school (rooftop and parking lot canopies) and middle school (parking lot canopies) for which energy would be generated for the school buildings. These projects would be offered to SOLECT, the firm that did the Heights solar facility under the same contract. The next place under investigation for leasing municipal land is the potential for parking lot canopies at the Ames/Pond Street parking lot controlled by Recreation and used for student parking during the academic year (DSD is the developer of East Elementary School, Gavins Pond Road parking lot and the landfill and has first right to future projects). The oversight committee is working with the developer (DSD) and neighbors on mitigation for the landfill site.

Human Resources Matters

- DPW Operations / Forestry & Grounds Supervisor position. We are consolidating the operations supervisory and forestry and grounds supervisory role under the leadership of Kevin Weber and recruiting an assistant operations supervisor (to replace retired Operations Supervisory Mike Teixeira). We are considering several workers for the promotion to assistant forestry and grounds supervisor (to replace F&G supervisor position formerly held by Kevin Weber). The consolidation of supervisor positions and restructuring of field supervision is part of the leadership succession plan within DPW.

- Public health nursing services. Karen Waitekus has returned to the School Department effective May 6. I am working with Fire Chief Jim Wright and BoH chair Mena Mesiha on the plan for hiring to fill needed public health nursing hours and the health administrator role. We expect to post and fill in the coming weeks.
- Employment agreements for executive group. Please find included in the consent calendar a request for approval of these one-year contract with departments and professional staff. A representative employment agreement is included in the packet, but the vote covers the Assessor, COA Director, Recreation Director, Treasurer/Collector, Finance Director, Administrative Assistant to the Select Board and Town Administrator, IT Director, and Superintendent of Public Works. You have previously voted contracts for the Fire Chief and Police Chief. The Library Director contract is voted by the Library Board of Trustees. As I am seeking revisions to the maximum pay range for Fire Chief and Town Engineer at the Personnel Board meeting on May 19 and to set the minimum and maximum salary range for Assistant Town Administrator, contracts for the Town Engineer and Assistant Town Administrator will be voted on the May 25th Board agenda.
- Recycling coordinator. We have hired Eve Carey for the shared 15-20 hour per week position between schools and DPW. A committee of parents, school staff and DPW Business Manager Liz Curley narrowed the choice to two, and I joined interim Superintendent of Schools Meg Dussault in a final interview. She is a graduate of Framingham State University and is pursuing a master's degree from Penn State University in renewable energy and sustainability systems.
- Current vacancies. Two positions in the Assessor's office have opened with the departure May 14 of Jeanette Berrios to the City of Taunton and Jen Florio on May 28 to be the assessor in Randolph. We will evaluate staffing in consultation with the Board of Assessors to determine how best to fill the vacancies.

Collective bargaining update

- Two units remain with expiring contracts in June 2021 — police lieutenants and Town administrative support association (SMEA).
- Talks with the police lieutenants began on April 7 and will continue later this month.
- Talks with SMEA began on March 3 and continued on April 13, led by Assistant to the Town Administrator Lauren Barnes. A tentative agreement was reached, but the union voted on April 22 to reject the package. A second vote was taken on April 29 that garnered bargaining unit approval. A summary of the settlement is included in the packet and is ready for Board approval.
- Approval of the settlement of the April 27 grievance hearing involving the police chiefs confidential assistant duties relative to licensing firearms duties that was discussed is requested.

Select Board Correspondence/Announcements

We received or exchanged 26 pieces of correspondence between 12 noon on April 22 and 12 noon on May 6. Topics included: commentary on the increase in the quarterly trash fee; advocacy for designation of October 11, 2021 as Indigenous People's Day; continuing advocacy for traffic mitigation measures and sidewalk installation on Old Post Road; and inquiries about the naming rights opportunities for the new library:

- An email from a resident questioning the 34% increase in trash and recycling quarterly fee and response from Town Administrator.
- Emails from several residents requesting the Select Board to pass a resolution changing Columbus Day 2021 to Indigenous People's Day.
- A total of 10 emails exchanged between residents of Old Post Road and Town officials concerning their request to install sidewalks on Old Post Road and other measures to address traffic concerns on Old Post Road;
- Public records request for documents related to the tax-exempt status of the general obligation bonds issued for the library project.

- A series of 11 emails from residents of Old Post Road inquiring about the Sharon Library Foundation outreach for naming rights for rooms and furnishings for the new library and responses from library officials.

Topics not reasonably anticipated within 48 hours in advance of the meeting

Mr. Heitin advised that Sharon Marketplace, formerly known as Shaw's Plaza is now lease ad 100%, thus increasing tax revenue for the Town. He also mentioned that revenue from the cannabis retail and grow facilities has begun to pick up as well.

Ms. Switekowski mentioned that is National Police Week and Nurses Week. She wished to extend thanks on behalf of the Board to all nurses and the Sharon Police Department for all they do for the community.

Adjourn

MOTION: To adjourn at 8:25 pm.
(Heitin – Switekowski)

Heitin: AYE
Switekowski: AYE
Smith-Lee: AYE
3-0 **PASSES**

List of Documents

- Proclamation
- Memoranda
- Flyer
- Correspondence
- Information from William James College webpage
- RFP Response
- Draft agreements
- Draft charge and composition
- Settlement Agreement
- Minutes
- Award forms
- Request for proposals
- Draft IMA
- Summary
- Draft SMEA contract
- Town Administrator's report