

MINUTES
SHARON SELECT BOARD
May 25, 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.

Proclamations

Last year, the Board acknowledged Gun Violence Awareness/Wear Orange Day at the request of Mr. Stuart Jacoby. Mr. Jacoby extended his thanks to the Board for taking this action again this year. Despite a comment to the contrary, the Board feels that this matter raises awareness for gun violence and does not make a political statement about other gun issues.

MOTION: To approve the proclamation for Gun Violence Awareness/Wear Orange Day.
(Heitin-Switekowski)

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

The Board also formally acknowledged Pride month for the first time in June last year and wishes to do so again this year. Ms. Switekowski remarked that this act promotes a sense of acceptance and inclusion for the community. She stated that there will be a Pride car parade in June and hopes the Board will consider approval of raising the Pride flag as part of that event.

MOTION: To approve the proclamation for Pride month.
(Switekowski- Heitin)

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

DEI Committee presentation on Indigenous Peoples Day

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee provide the Select Board with a written opinion which had been provided to the School Committee explaining the basis for replacing what has traditionally been celebrated as Columbus Day for Indigenous Peoples Day. The Committee is requesting that the Select Board consider making an interim proclamation that October 11, 2021 be celebrated as Indigenous Peoples Day until said holiday can be put forth as a warrant article for consideration by Town Meeting. The basis for the change is the documented history of Columbus' subjugation and enslavement of the Tiano people upon discovery of Hispaniola.

Several people attending the meeting made comments both for and against making this change. The Board will consider the information and comments provided this evening and tabled a vote on this matter until the June 8 meeting.

Governance Committee charge

This item is a continuation of discussions from previous meetings about establishing a committee to study possible changes to the governance model in Town. Mr. Turkington provided a draft charge for this committee

as well as a suggestion for its composition. He suggested that the Board act to establish the committee so that staff can begin advertising to recruit volunteers.

MOTION: To establish and constitute a Governance Study Committee as well as advertise to recruit volunteers.

(Heitin-Switekowski)

Heitin: AYE

Switekowski: AYE

Smith-Lee: AYE

3-0 **PASSES**

Outdoor water use restrictions

Mr. Heitin explained that he has discussed the issues surrounding outdoor water use with Public Works Superintendent, Eric Hooper as well as members of the Water Management Advisory Committee. There was a recent article in the *Boston Globe* which explained that many communities are struggling with PFAS contamination due to new regulations imposing stringent limits with respect to water quality. Wayland, in particular, is considering shutting down their wells and joining MWRA. Sharon is not in this position to date. Water supply is currently adequate with well four production stopped. However, due to us entering the period of traditionally high water use, increased outdoor water restrictions use will be temporarily enacted to ensure adequate water supply for public safety. The Board will review draught conditions and water supply at their June 22 meeting and update the outdoor water use restrictions accordingly at that time.

MOTION: To approve increased outdoor water use restrictions to handheld watering only through at least June 22, 2021.

(Heitin-Switekowski)

Heitin: AYE

Switekowski: AYE

Smith-Lee: AYE

3-0 **PASSES**

MOTION: To authorize the expenditures of \$200,000 in FY 2021 and \$200,000 in FY 2022 for the filtration installation for Well #4.

(Heitin-Switekowski)

Heitin: AYE

Switekowski: AYE

Smith-Lee: AYE

3-0 **PASSES**

Trial beer gardens (2) with Summer Concert Series

The Select Board voted at their January 28, 2020 meeting to approve two trial beer gardens in conjunction with the Recreation Summer Concert series but the opportunity never arose due to COVID.

The Recreation Advisory Committee recently discussed trying to undertake this with the Summer Concert Series this year now that increasing numbers of individuals are becoming vaccinated and COVID cases have declined significantly. Ms. Berger, Recreation Director, has submitted a risk management plan which was approved by the Recreation Advisory Committee.

At this point, there are concerns regarding public safety and it is suggested that all parties meet with Sharon Police Department and Chief Brewer on the details. The Board tabled further discussion until the next meeting.

Reorganization

In the past, the Board has reorganized every year after the Town election. Traditionally, the rotation has been such that the member whose term expires at the next election replaces the incumbent as Chair and the sophomore member serving in the role as Clerk. The Board agreed to uphold the traditional rotation of roles.

MOTION: To appoint William Heitin as Chair of the Select Board through the next Town Election.
(Switekowski – Smith-Lee)

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

MOTION: To appoint Hanna Switekowski as Clerk of the Select Board through the next Town Election.
(Smith-Lee - Heitin)

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

Consent Calendar

- I. Vote to approve the regular session minutes of May 11, 2021
- II. Vote to reappoint Tulika Angaian to Sharon Cultural Council for a term expiring June 30, 2024
- III. Vote to approve a banner request for First Congregational Church Annual Christmas Bazaar, November 29-December 6, 2021 in first position
- IV. Vote to approve employment agreements for Assistant Town Administrator, Lauren Barnes; Town Engineer, Peter O’Cain, and Fire Chief, James Wright
- V. Vote to amend the agreement between the Town of Sharon and Management Professional Employee Association
- VI. Vote to approve SERSG contracts for DPW supplies and services in the amount of \$501,631.40 and water and sewer treatment chemicals in the amount of \$108,231.00
- VII. Vote to approve acceptance of \$555 in donations for pickleball
- VIII. Vote to approve Class of 2021 Senior Celebration on Friday, June 4 with a rain date of Monday, June 7, 2021

MOTION: To approve the consent calendar.
(Switekowski – Smith-Lee)

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

Report of the Town Administrator

Mr. Turkington provided the following update.

The Finance Committee is expected to review draft financial policies in the area of reserve levels for water enterprise and health insurance trust, free cash and stabilization fund targets and use, debt management policies, and funding and investment for OPEB trust in response to auditor's letter to management recommendation to formalize current practices. I am also drafting for their discussion this summer an omnibus budget article that would replace the six articles now utilized to approve the annual budget.

We received / exchanged 15 pieces of correspondence between 12 noon on May 6 and 12 noon on May 20. Topics included: continuing advocacy for traffic mitigation measures and sidewalk installation on Old Post Road; suggestions for improving equity in trash fees; questions regarding resumption of public meetings for boards and committees instead of remote; and tracking hate incidents:

- An announcement of state regarding Women's Veterans Appreciation Day event on June 11 hosted in Sharon at the bandstand;
- An email requesting copies of lease agreement and amendments for Camp Everwood property;
- An email requesting any correspondence complaining of campaign signs;
- An email advocating for PAYT trash disposal to increase fairness in trash/recycling fees;
- An email for asking the Board of Health to resume enforcement of the plastic shopping bag ban;
- Emails inquiring about the resumption of public meetings rather than remote via Zoom;
- An email concerning the tracking of hate speech and actionable incidents by the Police Department; and,
- A total of 5 emails exchanged concerning a request to install sidewalks on Old Post Road and other measures to address traffic concerns on Old Post Road.

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

Adjourn

MOTION: To adjourn at 8:34 pm.
(Smith-Lee – Switlekowski)

Switlekowski: AYE

Smith-Lee: AYE

Heitin: AYE

3-0 **PASSES**

List of Documents

- Proclamations
- Pending legislation
- MGL – Columbus Day
- Draft charge
- Memoranda
- Risk management plan
- Draft budget schedule
- Draft 2022 meeting schedule
- FY2022 budget committees
- Minutes
- Membership list
- Banner request
- Employment agreements (3)
- Amendment to bargaining agreement
- SERSG Contracts (2)
- Report
- Update on end to State of Emergency