

-MINUTES
SHARON SELECT BOARD
August 4, 2021

The meeting of the Sharon Select Board was called to order at 5:30 pm by Select Board Chair William A. Heitin remotely via Zoom. Select Board members Hanna R. Switekowski and Emily Smith-Lee 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.

New Sharon Police Officer – Giovanni Valmond

Chief Don Brewer introduced Giovanni Valmond to the Board. Mr. Valmond has been selected as the newest full-time officer for the Town of Sharon. An extensive background check was conducted and Giovanni is described as goal oriented, professional, honest, and physically fit. Others describe him as a reliable, even-tempered, charismatic, person who is calm and collected.

Giovanni just graduated from Dean College with a Bachelor's degree in Homeland Security and Criminal Justice. He is fluent in English and Haitian Creole. He currently lives in Sharon and is an active member of the United States Army National Guard where he has received the Army Achievement Medal for Task Force Shield Mobile Testing Team (for COVID-19), and the Task Force supporting the 59th Presidential Inauguration.

Chief Brewer feels that Giovanni will be a tremendous asset to the Sharon Police Department. The Board thanked Officer Valmond for his service and for attending the meeting this evening as well as welcomed him to the Sharon Police Department.

MOTION: To appoint Giovanni Valmond as a new Sharon Police Officer.
(Smith-Lee - Switekowski)

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

Matthew Rovaldi promotion to Sergeant

Chief Brewer presented his recommendation for promotion of Matthew Rovaldi to the position of full-time Sergeant for the Town of Sharon. He explained that Matt is a quiet, sober-minded, responsible leader with an eye for detail. He leads by example and reacts to all situations with clarity and calm. An example of this would be Matt's earning the Life Saving award in 2015 when he immediately helped stem and arterial bleed, applying heavy pressure to a wound ultimately saving a life. His actions are indicative of his demeanor, one of confidence, command presence, and leadership.

Matt began his police career in 2012 as a Special Police Officer and part-time Dispatcher. He became a full-time police officer in 2014. It was quickly realized that Matt performed at a very high level with confidence and sincerity. In 2018, Matt was selected for a detective position, and once again went to work making a major impact on the detective bureau. With the promotion to Sergeant, Matt's shift and the Town of Sharon will be in excellent hands.

The Board took a moment to acknowledge Sergeant Adam Leavitt whose retirement created this vacancy. They went on to thank Mr. Rovaldi for attending the meeting tonight, for his service with the Marine Corps, and for his dedicated service to the Town.

MOTION: To promote Matthew Rovaldi to the position of sergeant.
(Smith-Lee - Switekowski)

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

Proposed LIP housing development – 303 North Main Street

Mr. Mike Khoury of Madoff and Koury, LLC and Yuriy Lande, proponent for a low-income housing development at 303 North Main Street, the site of Annex Auto repair shop, were in attendance to continue discussions and seek Select Board support for the project. The lot is a pre-existing non-conforming lot. The proponent seeks to building a 15-unit affordable, townhouse style condominium project. It was explained that Town staff has reviewed and has help to shape the draft of this project. Concerns centered around impact on Town services such as schools as well as traffic and flooding impact. Mr. Koury explained that a meeting was held at the Annex Auto location with abutters located within 500 feet of the proposed project to introduce the concept and begin a dialog to vet neighborhood concerns.

The Select Board explained that their support at this stage only allows the proponent to file a LIP application. The process still requires involvement of other departments in addition to decisions by the Board of Health, Conservation, and Zoning Board of Appeals.

MOTION: To endorse the 303 North Main Street LIP housing project as presented.
(Smith-Lee - Switekowski)

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

Police Chief search process

Mr. Turkington explained that he has spoken with Public Safety Consultants since the Board's last meeting. The firm will plan to participate in a public comment window during a Board meeting or a separate night where residents can give input on the qualities and experiences citizens wish to see in the next police chief. The updated process will include two essay questions to worked on during the four, 45-60-minute time windows between each candidate's five oral assessment center exercises. This replaces distribution of essay questions on August 12 due back by September 2. The questions will be exercises that will test knowledge of critical police topics from among the following areas: budget reductions, community policing initiatives, body-worn cameras, and police reform.

There will be five exercises for the oral portion of the assessment center. One of the exercises is a community meeting role play which the testing firm has offered to use Sharon residents. The participants will ask and watch, but not grade, the response to questions prepared by the firm based on content discussion with the DEIC.

Residents can watch the public interviews by the Board with finalists on October 12 and send comments to the Board ahead of an expected vote for appointment on October 26.

Mr. Heitin stated that residents who would like the Board to ask specific questions of the candidates, please get the questions to the Board as soon as possible. Those who wish to participate as part of the "role-play" part of the assessment should express their interest before the next meeting. He further explained that the Board had received and reviewed a letter from Kiana Pierre-Louis, DEIC Chair regarding the search process. He offered Ms. Pierre-Louis a few moments to comment on this update to the search process.

Ms. Pierre-Louis explained that she had spoken with Mr. Turkington prior to drafting the letter and understands that some issues have been addressed. She feels that the essence of the DEIC advisory position is about getting the public involved as much in the process as possible. The role of DEIC is to keep an equitable and inclusive lens on the process and wishes to be as involved as possible.

Ms. Price of 6 Osprey Road asked for specifics on how to volunteer for the role playing portion of the assessment. Interested residents available during work hours on September 15 should email the Select Board.

Town fiscal policies recommended by Finance Committee

Draft copies of the policies prepared and recommended by the Finance Committee were provided for the Board to review. This came about as a result of suggestions at the conclusion of the last audit. The Board appreciates the hard work of the Finance Committee and Mr. Gupta, the Finance Director, in drafting these policies.

MOTION: To approve the Town fiscal policies as recommended by the Finance Committee.
(Switlekowski – Smith-Lee)

Heitin: AYE

Switlekowski: AYE

Smith-Lee: AYE

3-0 **PASSES**

Review and approve the consent calendar

- I. Vote to approve the regular session minutes of July 13, 2021
- II. Vote to approve the following block party requests
 - a. Summer Street from Tolman to Woodland on August 29, 2021 from 1pm to 9pm
 - b. Robing Road from Woodland to Ames on August 22, 2021
- III. Vote to appoint the following Board and Committee candidates
 - a. Jeffrey Shapiro, Council on Aging Alternate for a term expiring December 31, 2023
 - b. Aaron Glick, Sharon Cultural Council for a term expiring June 30, 2023
- IV. Vote to authorize the 31st Annual Rodman Ride for Kids on September 25, 2021 and use of the Veterans' Memorial Park Beach as a water stop
- V. Vote to authorize directional signs in the public way for the Bilingual Montessori School of Sharon at South Main and East Foxboro Streets, Lakeview and East Foxboro Streets, and Lakeview Street and Massapoag Avenue
- VI. Vote to authorize the addition of a plaque to the existing Welcome to Sharon sign recognizing the Sharon High School State Champion Mock Trial Team
- VII. Vote to authorize out-of-state travel for George Demeris and Matthew Rovaldi to attend bomb training in New Mexico
- VIII. Vote to amend the collective bargaining agreement between the Town and Sharon Municipal Employees Association (SMEA) to change the classification of the Sharon Standing Building Committee secretary from OC-4b to OC-4a effective July 28, 2021
- IX. Vote to authorize the Sharon Historical Society to use the High Street Municipal Parking Lot on September 12, 2021 for their Annual Antique Car Show
- X. Vote to award a contract to Harcros Chemical of Nashua, NH for water treatment chemicals in the amount of \$13,500

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

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

Report of the Town Administrator

Launching the Governance Study Committee. We should decide whether to hold a joint meeting to start discussion with the governance study committee appointees at the Monday, August 23/Thursday, August 26 meeting or hold the meeting on a separate night such as Tuesday, August 17, Thursday, August 19 or Tuesday, August 31. The purpose of the meeting would be to kick off the committee's work by designating a chair, set priorities among the items that are included in the committee charge and expectations for public hearings and interim reports to the Select Board, set a regular meeting schedule, and discuss committee needs for research and administrative support. Will members be relied upon to post agendas and take minutes or should we recruit an evening administrative assistant? Research into peer towns — conducted by administrative assistant or committee members? I recommend that special counsel be designated to offer opinions on legal structure and questions of law, as well as draft article language. I recommend that you appoint a chair to assure the committee establishes itself and moves forward in a deliberative manner.

Railroad parking pass sale. Based on the expected increase in businesses resuming in-person operations after the Labor Day weekend, we will be offering a special one-month parking pass for \$50.00 for the month of September. The sale will be on Thursday, August 12 at 7:00 p.m. We only had about 100 sales on June 3 for the July-September quarter, but that was more than double the sales for April-June.

Marijuana delivery operator license inquiries. We have received inquiries from two separate, pre-qualified firms seeking information about offering marijuana delivery service in Sharon. According to the Cannabis Control Commission regulations, communities which allow any retail establishments must allow for delivery. If the business chooses to base itself in Sharon, they are subject to a host community agreement and must be located within the zone allowing retail establishments. They may pre-purchase and store for later delivery marijuana products, but provide appropriate security safeguards. We can't prohibit locations based on our limit of one retail establishments as delivery operators don't count as retail establishments despite the security concerns that come with warehousing for later delivery (as distinguished from pick-up and delivery from Verano/Four Daughters facility). We are not able to limit the number of Sharon-based delivery facilities.

We received or exchanged approximately 35 pieces of correspondence between 12 noon on Tuesday, July 6 and 12 noon on Friday, July 30. Topics included:

- Fifteen individuals sent emails asking the Board to consider opening the police chief recruitment to outside candidates, to consider public participation in the assessment process, and to assure that the assessment firm was both knowledgeable about the litigation filed by a police sergeant alleging racial discriminatory treatment and prepared to have candidates address issues of diversity and inclusion within the department;
- A series of emails exchanged regarding the Town-owned parcel of land on Massapoag Avenue adjacent to Massapoag Lane;
- Two emails questioning the appointment of Keevin Geller to the Governance Study Committee given her earlier concerns about comments he has made in social media she considers unbecoming of a Town official;
- A series of emails advising of the status of the cyanobacterial algae bloom on Lake Massapoag and related closure requirements;
- A public records request regarding exhibits to court filings in the ZBA/library zoning variance decision appeal and response;

- Two emails advocating for sidewalks to be installed on Lakeview Street and Town Administrator response;
- An email advocating for Board endorsement of pending producer responsibility legislation at the Statehouse;
- An email regarding water conservation; and,
- Emails from the Town Administrator regarding the retirements of Police Sgt. Adam Leavitt and Firefighter David Martin, applications for appointment to the ZBA alternate vacancy, and sharing correspondence on electricity rate changes and advising of governing board training opportunities.

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

Ms. Switekowski would like the Board to discuss the possibility of public comment periods on a regular basis during meetings.

Adjourn

MOTION: To adjourn at 6:13 pm.
(Smith-Lee – Switekowski)

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

List of Documents

- Recommendation letters (2)
- Correspondence
- LIP Application
- Renderings
- Assessment process update
- Training update
- DEIC recommendation
- Draft policies
- Minutes
- Block party request forms (2)
- Board/Committee applications (2)
- Membership lists (2)
- Route map
- Correspondence
- Map of locations
- Sign dimensions/specifications (2)
- Memorandum
- Training information
- Request letter
- Contract award form
- Town Administrator's report