

MINUTES
SHARON SELECT BOARD
October 26, 2021

The meeting of the Sharon Select Board was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair William 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.

Public Hearing – Traffic Rules and Orders

MOTION: To open the public hearing.
(Smith-Lee - Switekowski)

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

Mr. O'Cain, Town Engineering provided background on the request leading up to this hearing. The Engineering Division of the Sharon Department of Public Works has received requests for "No Parking" signs in the following locations on both sides of the roadway: 1. Mountain Street from the Mountain Street Extension to 596 Mountain Street. This is a resident request. 2. Arboro Drive from the Corner of Massapoag Avenue to 10 Arboro Drive (225 feet). We received two resident complaints and requests for signage in response to cars parking at the corner of Arboro Drive and Massapoag Avenue. This hearing was advertised as required to allow for public comment.

Mr. O'Cain noted that with respect to Arboro Drive, the parking along both sides of the street narrows the travel area to one lane making it hazardous for cars traveling into the neighborhood and nearly impossible for public safety apparatus to navigate in the event of an emergency.

Mr. Wollman of asked whether parking would be restricted on both sides of the street. Ms. Skye Bateman of 3 Arboro Drive proposed that the restrictions end just before the end of her driveway. Mr. Barry Fritz of 30 Arboro Drive agrees that restricting parking up to 10 Arboro Drive is not necessary. Mollie Denrich of 5 Arboro Drive stated that more than one or two car lengths is two extreme and unnecessary.

Ms. Smith-Lee asked if this situation was unique to Arboro Drive or whether there were other streets that should be address as well. There was a suggestion that was received by email, perhaps the Town should seek a bylaw restricting parking within 20' of any intersection at some point.

MOTION: To close the public hearing on Arboro Drive.
(Switekowski - Smith-Lee)

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

MOTION: To approve the installation of No Parking signs on Arboro Drive from the corner of Massapoag Avenue to the area discussed and represented by the red number three (3) on the map provided in the October 26, 2021 meeting materials.
(Switekowski - Smith-Lee)

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

With respect to Mountain Street, the concern is access to Borderland which charges an admission fee. Ms. Sharon Brady of 592 Mountain Street stated that she is confused about this request. She stated that she doesn't see the issue with the parking and putting up signs will only push the parking issue down the road.

Melissa Stafford of 680 Mountain Street remarked that the parking has created a parking area on the side of the road, destroying brush and growth. There has been a problem with littering due to the parking.

Mr. Dubois of 630 Mountain Street also commented about litter in the area.

The residents of 596 Mountain Street mentioned there are people sleeping in their cars overnight and there have been issues of domestic violence, people yelling at one another disrupting the neighborhood.

Ms. Smith-Lee stated that she wishes to ensure that the Board is setting public policy for public purposes and would like to think through the unintended consequences. She would prefer to see fixed hours posted to encourage use of Rattlesnake Hill trails but understands the concerns of the neighborhood regarding overnight parking.

The Board will consult with Conservation Commission on parking for Rattlesnake Hill and make a decision at the next regular Select Board meeting.

MOTION: To close the public hearing on Mountain Street.
(Smith-Lee - Switekowski)

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

Police Officer appointment - Shawn DePasquale

Chief Brewer introduced Shawn DePasquale. He explained that Mr. DePasquale's background has found that friends and acquaintances describe Shawn as committed, professional, well spoken, reliable, loyal, and respectful. Shawn graduated from Cardinal Spellman High School and currently lives in Brockton. He has a master's degree in Criminal Justice (Advanced Counterterrorism & Homeland Security) from Southern New Hampshire University, a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice (concentration in Police Administration/Operations) from Massasoit Community College, and an associate degree from Massasoit in Criminal Justice. Shawn worked for the Rollinsford, NH Police Department from 2017 to 2020. He currently works for Brewster Ambulance as a medical technician.

Chief Brewer believes Shawn will make an excellent addition to the Sharon police Department and his hard work approach will motivate others on the job. He recommends Shawn DePasquale to the Select Board to be a full-time police officer for the Town of Sharon.

MOTION: To appoint Shawn DePasquale as full-time police officer.
(Heitin-Switekowski)

Heitin: AYE

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

Police Chief appointment

Chair Heitin reminded that the process for selection of a new Police Chief began in February, 2021. It was intended that there would be overlap in the position before Chief Brewer's retirement. The public was asked to be a part of the selection process with exercises and questions during the assessment center. Five very well qualified candidates stepped forward to be considered as part of the process. These five candidates are viewed as leaders in the Department going forward. Mr. Heitin explained that discussions would be limited to the Select Board. He asked that Ms. Switekowski and Ms. Smith-Lee begin the conversation by discussing their top two candidates.

Ms. Smith-Lee approached her deliberations through the community lens and selected Scott Leonard and Steve Coffey to be her top two candidates.

Ms. Switekowski acknowledged that the selection process has been intense, even just the interviews. She remarked that all five candidates were impressive throughout the process. She has selected Steve Coffey and Scott Leonard. She has worked with Steve on the DEI Committee and appreciated Scott's community-oriented comments. She also stated her appreciation to the public for their part in the process.

Mr. Heitin concurred and stated that Steve Coffey and Scott Leonard were also his top two selected candidates though he believes all five to be strong leaders. Although there is concern regarding hierarchy, the concern isn't insurmountable. He stated he could support either candidate.

Ms. Smith-Lee remarked that either way, both are good candidates. She feels a slight preference for Sergeant Leonard due to the community related issues but feels that both candidates would be well suited to managing people and have the skills to lead the department.

Ms. Switekowski could also support either candidate. She feels that Mr. Leonard's experiences as a school resource officer and with police reform are helpful and that Mr. Coffey's public relations background is a strength for the Department. She is comfortable with both candidates and believes them to be strong leaders.

MOTION: To appoint Steve Coffey as Police Chief effective March 1, 2022, and authorize the Town Administrator to negotiate a contract.
(Smith-Lee - Switekowski)

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

Sharon Boosters golf tournament fundraiser

It was explained that a clause in the agreement with the Cape Club of Sharon allows for use of the golf course once per year for a fundraiser. The Sharon Booster Club has requested that the Select Board request use of the course for this purpose on their behalf.

MOTION: To approve the request from the Sharon Booster Club for a fundraiser at the Cape Club of Sharon.
(Switekowski – Smith-Lee)

Heitin: AYE
Switekowski: AYE

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

Select Board goals and objectives

The Board has reviewed the draft presented by Mr. Turkington and as discussed at the last meeting. The Board agreed that this was a comprehensive list of objectives, but nothing is set in stone and is very fluid to allow for changes as they arise.

Ms. Smith-Lee's only comment related to inclusion and equity. She feels that the language should be amended to reflect the Board's desire to *promote* inclusion and equity rather than *support*.

MOTION: To approve the Select Board goals and objectives for November 1, 2021 through October 31, 2022 with a modification reflecting promotion of inclusion and equity goals.
(Heitin-Switekowski)

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

Re-precincting

Mr. Hogan explained that there are no recommended changes to the current precinct lines. The following documents were provided to the Board for their review: the official precinct map including precinct labels and a table listing each precinct's population; the legal boundary descriptions for the precincts; and the block report for the precincts. The documents provided must be signed by the Board and returned to the State on Thursday.

MOTION: To approve the re-precincting plan as proposed and discussed.
(Heitin - Smith-Lee)

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

Consent calendar

- I. Vote to approve the following minutes:
 - a. September 13, 2021, Tri-board meeting
 - b. October 12, 2021, regular session
- II. Vote to approve the following One Day liquor licenses:
 - a. Tapped Beer Truck – October 24, 2021, for PTO Fundraiser at Sharon Community Center
 - b. Marla and Steven Lonergan – November 6, 2021, from 6 to 10 pm for a Bat Mitzvah
- III. Vote to approve a Common Victualler's License for Red Lentil, One Pond Street
- IV. Vote to delegate to the Technology and Telecommunications Committee, the task of conducting a virtual cable television license renewal public hearing and assist with the ongoing cable license renewal ascertainment of needs.

There was a brief discussion on the application for Red Lentil, a new business in the Square, and the ascertainment hearing being held by the Technology and Telecommunications Advisory Committee on November 3, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

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.

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

Ms. Switekowski mentioned that Sustainable Sharon will hold its bicycle ride on Halloween which sounds to be a fun new event. She also wished to thank the Recreation Department for their annual Trunk or Treat event. It was a fun time and there was a great turnout.

Adjourn

MOTION: To adjourn at 8:25.
(Smith-Lee – Switekowski)

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

List of Documents

- Engineering Department memo
- Maps
- Recommendation and biography
- List of candidates
- Draft goals and objectives for 2021-2022
- Vote of adoption
- Precinct map and descriptions
- Minutes
- One day liquor license applications (2)
- Common victualler license application
- Delegation letter
- Town Administrator's report