

MINUTES
SHARON SELECT BOARD
July 11, 2023

The meeting of the Sharon Select Board was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Hanna R. Switekowski remotely via Zoom. Select Board members Kiana Pierre-Louis and Emily Smith-Lee were in attendance as was Town Administrator Frederic E. Turkington, Jr. and Assistant Town Administrator, Lauren Barnes. The meeting commenced with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public comment period

A resident asked on the status of a response by Town Counsel regarding the Edge Hill Road LIP project. Mr. Turkington explained that Town Counsel has been asked to opine on whether the Board may rescind their support and if so, what impact doing so might have on the project. Staff has confirmed with DHCD that four units at 50% or 5 units at 80% would qualify all twenty units toward the Town's housing inventory. Mr. Khoury has not yet indicated the proponent's decision on this point.

Introduction – Donna Whitehead, Communications Specialist

Mr. Turkington explained that Donna Whitehead was chosen from large applicant pool of roughly 65 to fill the newly created position of Communications Specialist. He explained that there was a robust selection process which included securing writing samples from finalists before interviews.

The Board welcomed Donna to Sharon and expressed their excitement at her joining. Ms. Whitehead stated that she has spent most of career in Town Halls particularly in Easton and Mansfield. She admires the Town's initiative in creating this position and is looking forward to being a part of that.

Board and Committee interviews

The Board was introduced to Jennifer Cooperman, candidate for Council on Aging Board. Ms. Cooperman explained that she is a clinical social worker and for the past six years has worked for a nonprofit hospice facility. Her career has been focused on working with older adults and feels that community oriented care is where she is meant to be. Ms. Cooperman explained that with respect to her goals for her service on the Council on Aging Board, she can't help but compare to Sharon Schools. She remarked that the services are there, but would like to see the Council on Aging become as a fundamental part of who we are in Sharon. Most folks raise their children here and move on, but she feels there is so much more to Sharon than that. The Board thanked Ms. Cooperman and explained that it is the Board's policy to make an appointment at the following meeting.

The Board met Chandu Krishnan, candidate for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. Mr. Krishnan stated that he is grateful for the opportunity to participate in this process. He has lived in Sharon for past 5 years and lived in Quincy before moving to Sharon. He is semi-retired and is a senior fellow at Tufts University. His experience comes from the private sector and he has worked for international organizations. Although he is not a professional in this field, he feels that he can usefully draw on his experiences in the work of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. For fun, Mr. Krishnan loves to read, play piano, and enjoys watching crime and cooking series on TV. The Board thanked Mr. Krishnan and explained that the Board would make an appointment at the following meeting.

Ms. Jill Dougherty introduced herself to the Select Board as a candidate for Sharon Cultural Council. She explained that she has spent over 30 years serving and helping people with Fidelity Investments. She is passionate about helping others achieve their goals and dreams. She has since left Fidelity and is now a life coach. She has been a Sharon resident for nearly 30 years. She expressed her gratitude for this opportunity to serve the community. Ms. Doherty explained that she didn't have family nearby when moving here but made familial-like connections in the community through daycare and the school system. The Board thanked Ms. Dougherty and explained that the Board would make an appointment at the following meeting.

Elite East /DC Auto Sales owner Roland Deji Ogunlade – Class II Auto Dealer license

The Board asked Mr. Ogunlade to elaborate on the reason for the change of the business name. He explained that he purchases cars at auction and resells them. About a year ago now, he started receiving complaints from people that he didn't recognize. Mr. Ogunlade alleges that someone has been using the DC Auto Sales name to sell vehicles. He has reported this to the Sharon Police Department.

The Board asked, given the nature of his business, how Mr. Ogunlade plans to assure that this won't happen again. He stated that he has made the auction houses in Quincy and Taunton aware of this situation.

The Board wished to consider the matter to make a responsible decision. They advised this topic would be tabled for a future meeting.

Consider Host Community Agreement with Godsend HP

Mr. Turkington advised that the proponent of the Godsend marijuana facility needs tentative approval of a Host Community Agreement to continue the licensing process with the Cannabis Control Commission. Mr. Turkington advised that this is the same agreement that the Board recently approved for Four Daughters/Verano.

MOTION: To approve the host community agreement with Godsend, LLP for retail sale of marijuana.
(Pierre-Louis – Smith-Lee)

Smith-Lee: AYE

Pierre-Louis: AYE

Switekowski: AYE

3-0 **PASSES**

Update to the charge of the Governance Study Committee

Mr. Turkington developed a draft of an updated charge for the Governance Study Committee relating to completing their previous study and develop an article for recall provisions as well as codify the role of the Moderator as follows:

The charge to and duties of the Governance Study Committee is to study and make recommendations that assure thorough deliberation and voter participation in the decisions regarding governance structures in the following specific areas: 1. Complete research and recommend an article providing for the basis and process for Select Board removal of appointed members of boards and committees; 2. Complete research and recommend an article providing for the basis and process for voters to petition to recall an elected official; and, 3. Consider a by-law to codify the term (3 years), powers and duties of Town Moderator, and restrict moderator from serving in any other elected office.

The committee shall be comprised of seven (7) voting members appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the Select Board for a term ending not later than February 28, 2024. The Select Board shall designate one (1) of the members to serve as the committee chair.

The committee shall file an interim written report to the Select Board with recommendations on these items not later than November 30, 2023. Final recommendations shall be delivered by January 18, 2024 to the Select Board for consideration so that articles may be inserted into the May 2024 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

The Board stated that they prefer to keep a 9-member Committee and would like to recruit two new members. Mr. Turkington stated that he would advertise the two seats and schedule interviews to take place at the Select Board's August 1 meeting.

MOTION: To approve the updated charge for the Governance Study Committee with the amendment of up to 9 members.
(Smith-Lee – Pierre-Louis)

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

Consider reappointment of returning members of the Governance Study Committee

Ms. Smith-Lee asked for clarification on whether these the positions were advertised. She wished to make clear that the Board is acting consistently. Mr. Turkington advised that these reappointments would be considered first reappointments and interviews would not be necessary. The new term would expire on February 28, 2024.

MOTION: To appoint Ganesh Rangarajan as chair.
(Pierre-Louis – Smith-Lee)

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

MOTION: To reappoint the seven returning members of the Governance Study Committee through February 28, 2024.
(Smith-Lee – Pierre-Louis)

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

Consent calendar

- I. Vote to approve the following minutes:
 - a. June 8, 2023 joint meeting with Planning Board
- II. Vote to approve a one-day liquor license for a private event at the Sharon Community Center on July 29, 2023
- III. Vote to approve the collective bargaining agreement with Local 888 SEIU Sharon Library employees
- IV. Vote to accept a donation in the amount of up to \$24,000 from Everwood Day Camp to Lake Massapoag Advisory Committee for implementation of a pilot low dose alum application in the South Cove and installation of EutroSORB F filter socks at the lagoon entrance in summer 2023
- V. Vote to approve the following at the request of the Recreation Advisory Committee:

- a. accept a donation in the amount \$100 on behalf of the Friends of Beech Tree Park
 - b. accept a donation of \$5,000 for continued support of the Rothberg Scholarship fund
 - c. approve three murals to be painted on the electric box at Deborah Sampson Park, and storage container at Ames Street Softball complex
 - d. approve the nomination of Timothy and Katrena Traut-Savino for 2023 Citizen of the Year
 - e. approve the recipient of the 2023 Sheila Miller Staff of the Year award, Donald Hillegass – IT Director
- VI. Vote to approve and sign the following Southeastern Regional Services Group Contract Awards
- a. DPW Services - July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024
 - b. Water & Sewer treatment chemicals – July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024
 - c. Paper – July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024
 - d. Office supplies – July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025 (two-year contract)
- VII. Vote to approve India Day flag-raising ceremony at 9:00 am on August 6, 2023, at Deborah Sampson Park pending approval by Recreation Advisory Committee
- VIII. Vote to approve an Intermunicipal agreement with Norwood for the shared Energy Manager position
- IX. Vote to approve a seasonal food truck permit for Yai’s Kitchen, Lakeside Concert Series at Veterans’ Memorial Park Beach, July 26 and August 2 contingent upon successful fire safety inspection by Sharon Fire Department and evidence of liability insurance
- X. Vote to approve the following ice cream truck vending permits for Crescent Ridge Dairy:
- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| a. Anne Parrish | g. Emme Ricci |
| b. Kevin Parrish | h. Alesandra Ledin |
| c. Austin DiBiasio | i. Tim Keough |
| d. Andrew DiBiasio | j. Brent Huot |
| e. Andrew Cross | k. Meghan Hansbury |
| f. Katrina Billo | |
- XI. Vote to award a contract to PowerOptions in the amount of \$7,500 for fleet assessment of Sharon municipal vehicles

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

Smith-Lee: AYE
 Pierre-Louis: AYE
 Switlekowski: AYE
 3-0 **PASSES**

Report of the Town Administrator

Mr. Turkington provided the following update:

Library project. The SSBC has executed a construction contract with O’Connor Contracting in the amount of \$19,137,000 for the library project. Work is expected to begin before the end of July.

Property/casualty insurance renewal. Our insurance consultant, EPIC, has recommended a change from Trident/Arch to Chubb for property insurance in a hard market. Insurers are pushing for higher replacement values, then capping total exposure at an amount short of that full replacement cost. We negotiated \$300M coverage on an estimate \$340M value compared to \$150M cap with the incumbent carrier. Higher deductibles are included from \$10K to as high as \$25K depending on the line of coverage.

We saw 25%-30% increase with higher deductibles for employment liability for both Town and Schools. Cybersecurity insurance is up by more than 20%. The good news is these figures were offset by a \$117K reduction in workers' compensation premiums due to a lowering of the loss module and solid loss control efforts over the past two years. The insurance budget approved at ATM is sufficient to cover the renewal.

Status of vacancies being recruited. Communications Specialist Donna Whitehead will be introduced to the Board at the meeting ahead of her Wednesday, July 12 start date. Our latest Northeastern University student intern is Shepard Siegel; he begins work on Monday, July 10.

- Tiziana Milano is transferring from DPW administrative assistant for operations division to the COA administrative assistant position effective Monday, July 17. Her skills in newsletter design will be helpful in her new role. We have advertised the vacant DPW administrative assistant position with an application deadline of Tuesday, July 25.
- We have extended job offers to Susan Brumbelow to fill the vacant employee benefits administrator position in the Treasurer's office and to Moureen Nyakahuma to fill the vacant financial analyst position in the Accounting/Finance office. Both are anticipated to start on or about Monday, July 24.
- Danica Cucchi begins work as GIS Coordinator on Monday, July 24.
- Notice of a firefighter/paramedic test to fill future vacancies has been posted with an application deadline of Friday, July 21.

Deputy fire chief promotion ceremony. At 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 11 at the Public Safety Building, the Fire/EMS Department will host a brief ceremony recognizing the promotions of Dan Greenfield and Jeff Ricker to deputy fire chief.

Collective bargaining update. We will continue negotiations with AFSCME representing DPW/Water laborers and equipment operators and hope to reach a settlement on July 17. We expect to begin discussions with school crossing guards the week of July 10.

We have reached a settlement with librarians represented by SEIU; the proposed collective bargaining agreement includes few changes from the current agreement – 2.25% wage increase in FY2024, 2% in FY2025 and a wage reopener and impact bargaining for the third year in anticipation of the opening of the new library. Approval on consent calendar is requested unless you wish to discuss in executive session.

Select Board Correspondence/Announcements

We received / exchanged approximately 24 pieces of correspondence between Friday, June 16 and 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 6. Topics included:

- Notices and invitations including: Cultural Council newsletter; copy of contract with Republic Services for trash and recycling collection; applications for appointment to committees from Susan Peck (LMAC) and Jill Dougherty (Cultural Council);
- Emails from and exchanged with Georgeanne Lewis regarding discussion during June 20 Select Board meeting and regarding activity at site of proposed LIP project at 268-292 Edge Hill Road;
- Emails from Mark Macdonald regarding proposed LIP project at 268-292 Edge Hill Road;
- Email from Judy Crosby objecting to the limits of public comment at June 20 Select Board meeting;
- Emails from Eve Carey and DPW Deputy Superintendent Kevin Weber offering to serve on working group on trash and recycling issues;
- Email from Alan Lury, exchange with Town Engineer, regarding speed tables on Lakeview Street;
- Email from Bob Feinberg opposing PAYT trash program; and,
- Emails from Meredith Avery, Eduardo Nillni, Betsy Schnieider, and Matt and Julia Taveres regarding the siting of the water treatment facility in Tree Lane / Pine Tree Lane neighborhood.

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

Sponsored something for Town Hall in terms of appreciation?
Pinning ceremony for tow Deputies at Sharon Fire Department
Recognize July 3rd committee, public safety, civil defense for a successful event

Annual reading of Fredrick Douglass What is Fourth speech.
Lakeside concert series has begun.

Adjourn

MOTION: To adjourn at 8:52 pm.
(Smith-Lee – Pierre-Louis)
(Pierre-Louis – Smith-Lee)

Smith-Lee: AYE
Pierre-Louis: AYE
Switlekowski: AYE
3-0 **PASSES**

List of Documents

- Resume
- Board/Committee applications (3)
- Class II Auto Dealer application
- KP Law eUpdate
- Draft HC agreement
- Update
- Membership lists (3)
- Minutes
- One-day liquor application
- Collective bargaining agreement
- Memorandum of
- Confirmation email from Camp Everwood
- Memorandum of
- SERSG award forms (3)