

MINUTES
SHARON SELECT BOARD
October 24, 2023

The meeting of the Sharon Select Board was called to order at 7:00 pm by Clerk Hanna Switekowski remotely via Zoom. Select Board member Emily Smith-Lee was 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

Judy Crosby made several comments including her hopes that the Town's remote meeting security policy will improve because of the Zoom bombing of the Finance Committee meeting last evening, concerns about the Town's borrowing and its impact to the bond rating, and illegal parking in the handicapped spaces in the municipal parking at Post Office Square.

Public hearing – Liquor license application for Carriage House Pizza, 21 South Main St.

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

Switekowski: AYE
Smith-Lee: AYE
2-0 **PASSES**

The Board was introduced to Viya Chrissafi of Carriage House Pizza located at 21 South Main Street. It was explained that a complete application package has been received. Ms. Chrissafi explained that she seeks a license to help grow the business at dinnertime.

Ari Zomer of 8 South Pleasant Street inquired about the details of the license stating his concerns involve whether there would be an open bar in the outdoor seating/patio area. Ms. Chrissafi answered that the application includes allowing alcohol in the outdoor space but does not include an outdoor bar. She further stated that the business closes at 8 p.m. in the evening mid-week.

Ms. Smith-Lee mentioned that she understands the concern but is feels a pure indoor stipulation is unnecessary. She feels that restricting the license so that no alcohol may be served after 9pm is more appropriate.

Charles Aspinwal asked how such a stipulation would affect any potential for a transfer in the future. It was explained that such a stipulation would indeed stay with the license if the business were to transfer.

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

Switekowski: AYE
Smith-Lee: AYE
2-0 **PASSES**

MOTION: To approve the liquor license for Carriage House Pizza with the stipulation that no alcohol shall be sold after 9:00 pm.
(Switekowski – Smith-Lee)

Switekowski: AYE
Smith-Lee: AYE
2-0 **PASSES**

Sharon Housing Authority interview – Irene Hixson

Members of the Sharon Housing Authority joined the Select Board in interviewing Ms. Irene Hixson who has stepped forward to be considered for the tenant vacancy left by Mr. Melvin's resignation. It was explained that the Select Board asks the following a standard set of questions for each candidate:

Please tell us about your personal background, education, employment, things you like to do for fun, etc. and how/if it relates to the committee for which you seek appointment.

Why are you interested in appointment to the particular committee? What goals do you have for your service?

(If applicable) We often have more interested citizens who step forward to serve. If not chosen for the particular committee to which you have applied, would you consider a different assignment?

How can we ensure the work of your committee reflects the breadth of thought that reflects Sharon's diverse community?

Ms. Hixson advised that she has lived in Sharon for almost all her life but has lived on Hixson Farm Road for 18 years. Her goal for her work on the Board is to make a difference. To hear the concerns of her neighbors and help address those concerns on their behalf.

There was a brief discussion about the term for this vacancy. It was explained that Town Clerk Mark Hogan would be consulted, and staff would follow up with Ms. Hixson and the members of the Housing Authority.

MOTION: To appoint Irene Hixson to the Sharon Housing Authority.
(Switekowski – Smith-Lee)

Switekowski: AYE

Smith-Lee: AYE

2-0 **PASSES**

Board/Committee reappointment interviews

Ms. Switekowski explained that the Board asks a standard set of questions for each candidate:

Please tell us about your personal background, education, employment, things you like to do for fun, etc. and how/if it relates to the committee for which you seek appointment.

Why are you interested in appointment to the particular committee? What goals do you have for your service?

(If applicable) We often have more interested citizens who step forward to serve. If not chosen for the particular committee to which you have applied, would you consider a different assignment?

How can we ensure the work of your committee reflects the breadth of thought that reflects Sharon's diverse community?

Lealdon Langley of the Water Management Advisory Committee, Alan Westman of the Conservation Commission and David Martin of the Historical Commission have expressed an interest in appointment to another term in their respective roles when their terms expire at the end of this year. Each candidate was given the opportunity to respond to the Board's standard questions and explain about the work they do in the community in their role.

The candidates were thanked for their time this evening and it was explained that reappointments would be made at a future Select Board meeting.

Vote support on articles for Special Town Meeting

Article	Sponsor	Notes	Select Board Vote
Additional Appropriation for Water Treatment Facility	Select Board	new total \$36.5M, additional bond authorization to \$28M, potential 30 year bond if 0% CWF borrowing	Support 2-0-0
Long-Term Lease Authorization for Well No. 5 Solar Project	Select Board		Support 2-0-0
Accept Weyman Lane and Atherton Lane as public roadways	Select Board	per Town Counsel - Quail Ridge IMA	Support 2-0-0
Petition General Court to extend statutory limit of 25 years for intermunicipal agreement with Town of Foxborough	Select Board	per Town Counsel (mentioned at 8/1/23 SB meeting)	Support 2-0-0
Amend Business District D Zoning	Planning Board	correct error in recodification	TABLE
Amend General By-Law: Set Deadline for Mailing Town Meeting Warrants	Select Board	The failure of 2023 ATM Article 29 left an inconsistency with regard to the mailing deadline for Warrants (14 days in Section 49-2 and 7 days in Section 12-9).	Will be pulled
Amend Expenditure Limit for Solid Waste and Recycling Revolving Fund	Select Board	Increase from \$2.5M to \$3M	Support 2-0-0
Amend Expenditure Limit for Health Department Revolving Fund	Board of Health	Increases in vaccine cost are the driving factor (flu vaccine alone is almost \$36,000 yearly & we wait 6-10 months for reimbursements) & now that the COVID vaccines have commercialized, upfront expenses have increased significantly.	Support 2-0-0

Consider and vote to adopt new goals for November 1, 2023 through October 31, 2024

It was explained that draft goals were included in the Board's materials based on the discussion during the last meeting. Mr. Turkington advised that some of the topics which were closely related have been merged. Ms. Smith-Lee remarked that she is comfortable and all comments have been captured in the draft. It was also

explained that Ms. Pierre-Louis has reviewed the document and advised staff that she is also comfortable with the document. The goals will be added to the Select Board webpage once voted.

MOTION: To approve the Select Board goals for the period of November 1, 2023 through October 31, 2024 as proposed and discussed.
(Smith-Lee - Switekowski)

Smith-Lee: AYE
Switekowski: AYE
2-0 **PASSES**

Consent calendar

- I. Vote to approve the following minutes
 - a. September 26, 2023 open session
 - b. October 10, 2023 open session
- II. Vote to approve a Grant of Conservation Restriction on land known as Inter Lochen Park, Mountain Street to the Massachusetts Audubon Society, Inc.
- III. Vote to accept all present and future donations in support of new Sharon (migrant) families

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

Switekowski: AYE
Smith-Lee: AYE
2-0 **PASSES**

Report of the Town Administrator

Mr. Turkington provided the following update.

Interview of veteran members of committees. Executive Assistant Melissa Imbaro has put together a schedule of those members of committees who have previously served two terms interested in reappointment for interviews with the Board. We will stagger these throughout the fall to manage that task.

Cybersecurity training. IT Director Don Hillegass has arranged for cybersecurity training for all departments on Thursday, October 26th at 1:00 p.m.

Update on work of task force supporting migrant families. A leadership team consisting of Assistant Supt. of Schools Meg Dussault, Public Health Administrator Leandra Mclean, Fire Chief Mike Madden, Assistant Town Administrator Lauren Barnes and me has worked with a number of community faith leaders and community organizers to provide essential, unmet needs for the 15 families placed by the state at the EconoLodge. We have held Zoom meetings to coordinator collections of items ranging from diapers to hygiene products to coats and warm clothing to books and craft supplies. We have established a donation fund to provide laundry services and purchase specialty items for infants and toddlers. A webpage has been set up on the Town website to provide updates to the community about emerging needs and opportunities to participate in welcoming these new residents. We await confirmation whether the 96 rooms at the Best Western will be utilized as of November 1 given the Governor's soft cap on sheltering additional families beyond 7,500 statewide. If so, the collection efforts may expand depending on whether the state hires a social services agency to support the caseload.

Disclosure form from Joel Fishman. Appended to my report is a financial disclosure form filed by Joel Fishman. While technically not an abutter to the library parcel, Mr. Fishman wanted guidance and

acknowledgement of the proximity of his residence to 11 North Main Street and any restrictions, he might take in voting on potential uses for the site.

Human Resources Matters

Status of vacancies being recruited. We have identified two strong candidates to fill the role of employee benefits specialist. Pending reference checks, we expect to make an offer next week with the hope of a November 27 start date.

Review of personnel by-law by Personnel Board. The Board met on October 11 to finalize comments and questions for labor counsel before holding a meeting on October 26 to complete that portion of the review. The Personnel Board would like to meet with the Select Board in late November or early December to discuss the governance issues within the by-law in hopes of reaching consensus on any changes to appointment of members, scope of oversight, etc. We expect to have the by-law ready for insertion in the 2024 ATM Warrant in January.

Select Board Correspondence/Announcements

We received / exchanged approximately 22 pieces of correspondence between Friday, October 6 and 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 19. Topics included:

- Notices and invitations including: updates on placement of 15 migrant families at EconoLodge; Board statement on Hamas attacks on Israel; notice of award of \$30K municipal road safety grant; applications for appointment to committees from Joel Fishman and Michael Fillion (Library Reuse); resignation of Meredith Avery from Conservation Commission;
- Email from Karin Bolt and response inquiring about status of Costco coming to Sharon Gallery;
- Emails (4) from Jaili Gong from concerning waiver of parking ticket for parking in handicapped accessible space at Sharon HS open house;
- Emails (6) exchange between Kumar family and town engineer regarding impacts of South Main Street intersection improvements and mitigation requests;
- Ema regarding ZBA review of LIP proect at Edge Hill Road; and,
- Emails (6) exchanged between Rebecca Corker and town engineer and MassDOT officials relative to timing of state approval of tractor-trailer truck ban on South Walpole Street.

Mr. Turkington advised that Mr. Joel Fishman submitted a disclosure form due to his living in the neighborhood of the existing library and the potential for conflicts with his serving on the Library Reuse Committee. He encouraged the Board to acknowledge the disclosure form and vote to authorize the Chair to sign.

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

None.

Adjourn

MOTION: To adjourn at 8:09 pm.
(Smith-Lee - Switlekowski)

Switlekowski: AYE
Smith-Lee: AYE

2-0 **PASSES**

List of Documents

- Liquor license application
- Legal notice
- Resume
- Notice of intent
- Board/Committee applications (3)
- List of articles
- Minutes
- Grant of conservation restriction
- Report
- Disclosure determination form