

MINUTES
SHARON SELECT BOARD
September 10, 2019

The meeting of the Sharon Select Board was called to order at 7:00 pm in the Town Hearing Room at the Sharon Community Center with Chair William A. Heitin, Select Board Member Emily E. Smith-Lee, 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.

Pinning Ceremony and Promotion of Matthew Laracy to Fire Lieutenant

Chief James Wright thanked the Board for hosting this pinning ceremony this evening. This is an important step in Mr. Laracy's life and career. Matt Laracy has been a member of the Sharon Fire Department for four years. He has earned his Bachelor's degree in Fire Science and scored number 1 on the assessment center. Matt comes from family of firefighters. His father is the Deputy Chief in neighboring Foxborough and his uncle is the Fire Chief in neighboring Stoughton. Matt has chosen to be pinned tonight by his mother, Karen.

The Board extended their best wishes to Lieutenant Laracy and offered their congratulations.

Recommendations from Energy Advisory Committee – Solar Land Leases

Mr. Aronson explained that Mr. Fyler and Mr. Kamocsay of the Energy Advisory Committee are also in attendance tonight and then provided a brief update regarding Solect which was a topic at the last meeting. The Committee has been negotiating an agreement with Solect and is nearing completion to that end.

He went on to introduce Tim Magner of Diversified Solar Products. The Board heard at the last meeting that the EAC recommended Diversified Solar Products be selected for submitting the most advantageous proposal. Mr. Magner provided more detail of that proposal, including conceptual images of the solar projects which consist of the development of a photovoltaic facility at the former landfill site and solar canopies at East Elementary and Gavin's Pond parking lot. Renderings, which show a more ground-level view, will be circulated at a later date. The Board expressed their expectations in reaching out early to those neighbors directly affected by aesthetics of the solar collecting equipment.

Mr. Aronson then provided information on the warrant articles for Special Town Meeting which would authorize the Select Board to execute site leases with terms of 20 years plus extensions. Special legislation is also being sought to amend the Chapter 97 statute which limited site leases to 10 years.

MOTION: To select Diversified Solar Products as the preferred vendor for having submitted the proposal deemed most advantageous to the Town in response to the RFP for rights to lease surplus Town property to develop Solar PV facilities at the closed municipal landfill on Mountain Street, and on canopies over Town parking lots and paved areas and to authorize the Town Administration, with assistance from the Energy Advisory Committee, to enter into negotiations with the objective of reaching an agreement on a site lease and PILOT agreement, subject to Town Meeting approval.

(Smith-Lee – Heitin) 2-0 **PASSES**

Discussion of Deborah Sampson Recreation Area

Mr. Richard Kramer was in attendance and stated that as there was no way to present images or slides in the meeting room, he would need to reschedule.

Discussion of Special Town Meeting Articles

Mr. Turkington explained that a list of articles was included with the meeting materials for this evening. The Finance Committee has set up an initial meeting to begin reviewing articles on September 23. They will need to schedule another meeting either on October 3 or 8. Background on the article list was discussed. It was explained that Town Counsel has sent a preliminary opinion that the Library Trustees have care, custody, and control over items within the walls of the library. Clarification was given that this topic was discussed at the last meeting concerning naming rights. Significant rooms within the library are able to be named without conflict with the existing bylaws. Mr. Turkington suggested that the language of the bylaw be clarified at the Annual Town Meeting in the spring. Preliminary agreement has been achieved with the Cape Club and Sharon Gallery for mitigation funds to allow billboards within 300 feet of Route 95. This requires change of the sign bylaw, not the Zoning bylaw which would require 2/3 majority vote at Town Meeting. Mitigation agreements will be presented at the next meeting. Lastly, there is a placeholder article should something result in the efforts surrounding negotiations with Brickstone. The order of the articles will also be finalized at the next meeting.

Review and approve consent calendar

- I. Vote to approve banner requests for:
 - a. Sharon HUGS Domestic Violence Awareness Month, October 7-14, 2019 in 1st position
 - b. Sharon Youth Lacrosse Association, October 21-28, 2019, 2nd position
- II. Vote to approve Lease of Space for Telecommunications Equipment
 - a. 12-17 Farnham Road – Crown Castle
 - b. 12-17 Farnham Road – Verizon
 - c. 135R Upland Road – T-Mobile Northeast LLC
 - d. 438 Massapoag Ave – T-Mobile Northeast LLC
- III. Vote to approve donations of \$2,000 for Beech Tree park

MOTION: To approve the consent calendar.

(Smith-Lee – Heitin) 2-0 **PASSES**

Report of the Town Administrator

Today was the opening of the new Town Hall. The work of BKA, Colantonio, Inc. and DPI has been outstanding. Mr. Turkington acknowledged and thanked Lauren Barnes for her hard work throughout the project and attending all job meetings. She was instrumental in assuring that all owner concerns were addressed by the construction team. He also acknowledged and thanked Donald Hillegass and Jeff Rose of the IT Department and Matt Baldassari, Facilities Director, for their hard work and dedication as well. The Board acknowledged that the move out of the Town Hall space was no easy undertaking and appreciates the efforts made by the entire staff. The next phase of the project will be the abatement and demolition of the old Town Hall which should occur by the end of the month. Work will then progress to the parking lot and finally to the site work and landscaping in front of the new Town Hall. A formal ribbon cutting and open house is being planned for December.

Mr. Turkington also explained that work continues in preparing for Special Town Meeting. Moderator Andy Nebenzahl has appointed David Fixler as Assistant Moderator in the event that his assistance is needed due to a large case Mr. Nebenzahl is involved with. The warrant goes to the printer on October 9. The Tri-Board meets on Monday night at the Middle School meeting room. It is expected that changes to the budget schedule will be discussed. An agenda will be posted tomorrow for that meeting.

There will be an annual ceremony in honor of the victims of 9/11 at the Public Safety Building at 11:35 am tomorrow.

The Board acknowledged that Sharon Porchfest, the culmination of efforts by Paige Davis, was a great success over the past weekend. Hopefully this will become an annual event. Paige was instrumental in spearheading and coordinating the day.

Mr. John McGrath presented information which was distributed to the Board between this and the last meeting. There was a fountain purchased by the Town of Sharon 153 years ago to provide water for horses travelling through the center of Town, then called Village Square, and also served as a gathering spot for residents from 1886-1917. It has not been able to be determined what happened to the fountain, however it is suspected that it was scrapped for the iron as the country had become involved in WWI. During the time Mr. McGrath served on the Board, \$8,000 was raised in the hopes that a replica could be found or made. Since then, Mr. McGrath has found an identical fountain manufactured by Henry Jenks being sold for \$15,000 by an individual in Rhode Island. The seller has put the item on hold and Mr. McGrath seeks support by the Select Board to proceed with securing the fountain which has great historical significance in Sharon. The Board agreed to add this item to the September 24 agenda for formal consideration.

Topics not reasonably anticipated forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting

Adjournment to Executive Session

MOTION: To enter into executive session at 8:18 pm for the purpose of discussing possible acquisition of Rattlesnake Hill then adjourn for the evening immediately following. Discussion of these items in open session may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Town.

Roll Call Vote:

Smith-Lee: Aye

Heitin: Aye

2-0 **PASSES**

List of Documents

1. Email correspondence
2. Memorandum
3. List of articles
4. Draft articles
5. Memorandum of Understanding
6. Banner requests
7. Memorandum