

MINUTES
SHARON SELECT BOARD
September 8, 2020

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

Joint meeting with Sharon Library Board of Trustees

The Library Board of Trustees convened and both Boards conducted interviews of four candidates to fill the vacancy left by the passing of Bob Levin. Candidates Shelbi Brown, Christopher Budlong, Cheryl Rosenfeld and Lynes Torres were provided an opportunity to share their thoughts on the role of a Trustee, interests in the 21st century library, and their unique talents they feel would be beneficial to the Trustees and the library. Candidates were also asked how diversity, equity and inclusion fits into their vision of the role of the Trustee. The current Trustees took a few moments to introduce themselves to the candidates and Ms. Weinstein provided information on what the Trustees do.

Both the Board of Trustees and the Select Board deliberated on the candidates' qualifications. They agreed that this is a great group of candidates and are grateful to them for volunteering for this important role. Ms. Weinstein remarked that based on the group's qualifications, she hopes that all candidates will volunteer regardless of who is selected this evening as they all have unique skills or interests that can help the Board of Trustees, the Library, or the Friends of the Library.

MOTION: To appoint Cheryl Rosenfeld to the Library Board of Trustees.
(Heitin - Switlekowski)

Heitin: AYE Gerriets: AYE Weinstein: NO

Switlekowski: AYE Weeks: AYE MacArthur: NO

Smith-Lee: AYE Windman: NO

5-3 **PASSES**

Sharon Cultural Council candidate interview – Valerie Vigoda

This topic was tabled until the September 29 meeting of the Select Board.

Sharon Board of Health candidate interview – Hope Klassman

Ms. Hope Klassman introduced herself to the Board as a candidate to fill the vacancy on the Board of Health by the resignation of Jay Schwab. She explained that she has a background in Public Health and Health Education and has stayed primarily in education. She worked in public health as an undergrad. She is a 38 year resident of Sharon and wants to get involved and feels that this is a great way to do so now that she's retired. The Board thanked Ms. Klassman for her time this evening and explained that the Board's policy is not to make an appointment on the night the interview takes place, rather it will be at the next scheduled Select Board meeting which is scheduled for September 29.

Discussion on improvement of athletic fields

Mr. Colin Barbera of 26 Tolman Street and President of the Sharon High School Athletic Boosters provided an overview of the proposal which the Board received ahead of the meeting. The proposal involves improvement of the quality of natural grass at the athletic fields. Several of the High School athletics coaches, in addition to Mr. Barbera, toured Sharon's athletic fields with Mr. Ian Lacy, the lead Project Advisory for Tom Irwin Advisors, an advisory/consulting company that develops maintenance programs for athletic fields based on scientific evaluation of field conditions which is felt could improve the quality, resilience and safety of the Sharon fields at a relatively moderate cost. Typical cultural techniques for such programs might include aeration, soil amendments, fertilization and irrigation. Much of the work could be accomplished by Sharon DPW staff if provided with the science and resources to do so. Tom Irwin Associates has provided a quote of \$2,500 per field to identify and quantify current field conditions, develop a customized maintenance plan and budget for each field, and monitor the results for five years.

The group is requesting authorization for funding the analysis of four fields, one of which would be the High School. If the School Department won't entertain the High School field as a possibility, perhaps East Street would be a possibility site. The current consultant used by the Department of Public Works has offered to complete an analysis at no cost to the Town. Mr. Turkington suggested that since time is of the essence and field use is down due to the pandemic, perhaps the Town could commit to use of resources of \$2,500 for study of one field, the sports groups will commit to the study of one field, School Department or Committee can weigh in on the study of the High School field and the DPW's consultant could provide the analysis they have offered.

MOTION: To approve the expenditure of \$2,500 to study one field matched by \$2,500 from the youth sports organizations to study another field, the Forestry and Grounds staff to entertain discussions with the current provider for study of another two of the four fields, the Select Board will support the maintenance of one of the four fields over the next maintenance cycle all pending the approval by the School Department.
(Heitin - Switlekowski)

Heitin: AYE

Switlekowski: AYE

Smith-Lee: AYE

3-0 PASSES

Discuss and vote to approve water use restrictions

Department of Public Works Superintendent Eric Hooper has requested that the Board approve increased water use restrictions. The Energy and Environmental Affairs has declared a Level 2 Significant Drought in all seven regions of the Commonwealth of MA, the Western, Connecticut River Valley, Central, Northeast, Southeast, Cape Cod, and Islands regions. At Level 2 Significant Drought, conditions are becoming significantly dry and warrant detailed monitoring of drought conditions, emphasis on water conservation and more stringent watering restrictions. Increased water use restrictions by the State include turning off in-ground irrigation systems. Property owners may use only hand-held hose for watering lawns, gardens, or fields. This change should result in a 10-15% decrease in weekly pumping withdrawal.

MOTION: To approve the increased water use restrictions through September 30, 2020.
(Switlekowski-Heitin)

Heitin: AYE

Switlekowski: AYE

Smith-Lee: AYE

3-0 **PASSES**

Mr. Heitin commented that a waiver for watering of newly installed lawns is available through the water department.

Review and discuss proposed questions for School Committee candidates

The Select Board will meet jointly with the School Committee to interview candidates to fill the School Committee vacancy left by Marcy Kaplan's resignation. The School Committee has forwarded the following draft questions which they intend to ask of the candidates.

- 1) Please tell us about yourself, including any volunteer experience, and why you are interested in serving on the school committee?
- 2) How many school committee meetings have you watched or attended in the past 12 months and what have been your takeaways?
- 3) On average, how many hours a week are you able to devote to committee work (including attending school committee meetings, subcommittee meetings, preparing for meetings, and additional work related to specific tasks that may be delegated to you)?
- 4) The School Committee works together as a team of equals. Please describe a time when you changed your mind on a topic after you thought you already knew what your view of the subject was, and why you changed your mind.
- 5) Do you have any specific experience with negotiations and/or financial management?
- 6) Equity and inclusion have been a substantial topic of concern over the past several years within the Sharon Public Schools. How would you assist the committee with this issue?

The Board felt that the questions are thorough but wish to either revise question 4 or pose a separate question involving the School Committee working as a governance team with School Administration. It was agreed that Ms. Smith-Lee would draft a question and circulate it to the School Committee to include in distribution to the candidates.

Discuss and appoint members of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

Ms. Smith-Lee provided an overview of the process to establish this committee leading up to this meeting. She recalled that the Board was committed early on to the thought of the School and Police Departments designating a representative and the Board is comfortable in honoring those seats. They are more than satisfied that these two seats bring value to the committee. The Board was blown away by the response of those members of the community who wish to engage with this committee. In terms of composition, Ms. Switlekowski is still open to a committee of 11. Ms. Smith-Lee and Mr. Heitin are inclined to stay at 9 for now and revisit the composition later. The Board spoke briefly about a Select Board liaison for the committee. It was agreed that the Board would discuss this at a future meeting.

MOTION: To appoint Wendy Alexis-Janvier, Steve Coffey, Lajos Kamocsay, Bill Kondrath, Dru Ledbetter, Marjorie Mitlin, Kiana Pierre-Louis, Ellie Zinno, and Zainab Mohammed to the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee.
(Heitin-Switlekowski)

Heitin: AYE
Switlekowski: AYE
Smith-Lee: AYE
3-0 PASSES

Vote support for Sharon Gallery and 80 South Main Street warrant articles

There have been two late additions to the Annual Town Meeting warrant, the disposition of Town property located at 80 South Main Street and a provision to allow the storage of gasoline for accessory sale at the Sharon Gallery. Ms. Smith-Lee questioned whether Conservation Commission has formally given their position on the matter Sharon Gallery matter as she feels that their having vetted the proposal is important. Finance Committee meets tomorrow night and is expected to vote their position.

Article	BOS Vote
Disposition of Town property located at 80 South Main Street	Support 3-0
Gasoline storage for accessory sale at Sharon Gallery	Support 2-0-1 (Smith-Lee abstained)

Review and approve consent calendar

- I. Vote to approve the following minutes
 - a. July 28, 2020 – Executive session
 - b. August 18, 2020 – Regular session
 - c. August 25, 2020 – Regular session
 - d. August 25, 2020 – Executive session
- II. Vote to award a Common Victualler's License to Charles R. Wilbur Post 106 American Legion, Inc.
- III. Vote to approve the FY2021 October 1/12th budget in the amount of \$7,908,983.

MOTION: To approve the consent calendar.
(Switlekowski-Heitin)

Heitin: AYE
Switlekowski: AYE
Smith-Lee: AYE
3-0 PASSES

Report of the Town Administrator

Mr. Turkington provided the following update.

- Beach season has completed.
- 52 train passes were sold at the last quarterly sale.
- 13 candidates have applied for the vacant Public Health Nurse position.

- BP Foodmart has submitted an application for a wine and malt package store license. A public hearing will be held at the September 29 Select Board meeting.
- Key dates for the upcoming budget cycle will be provided at the next meeting.
- Porchfest will take place this weekend on September 13.

Ms. Switlekowski took a moment to thank the Town Clerk, Mark Hogan, Public Safety and the pole workers for their hard work in another successful election. There was a 47.5% voter turnout for this election.

A groundbreaking event for the new High School Building was held earlier today.

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

None

Adjourn

MOTION: To adjourn at 9:39 pm.

(Heitin - Switlekowski)

Heitin: AYE

Switlekowski: AYE

Smith-Lee: AYE

3-0 **PASSES**

List of Documents

- List of questions provided by Library Board of Trustees
- Resumes and letters of interest
- Board and Committee applications (2)
- List of current Sharon Cultural Council members
- List of current Board of Health members
- Turf management application plan
- Field improvement letter
- Current field usage
- Revised management and maintenance plan
- Fall 2020 fields planning
- Fall turf grass maintenance information
- Memo from DPW Superintendent dated
- Draft School Committee interview questions
- DEI Applicant list
- Candidate applications
- Committee charge and draft composition
- Draft ATM warrant articles
- Minutes
- Common Victualler license application materials
- FY2021 October budget summary
- Town Administrator's report