

MINUTES
SHARON SELECT BOARD
January 19, 2021

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. Switekowski 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.

Candidate interviews for Sharon Cultural Council

Ms. McLaughlin introduced herself to the Select Board as a candidate for Sharon Cultural Council. Ms. McLaughlin has lived in Sharon for 14 years. She is a museum curator in Brockton and has worked in the arts for 30 years. With respect to diversification, Ms. McLaughlin feels that having an eye for community impact is important and would diversify exhibits. In her spare time, Ms. McLaughlin likes to travel.

Ms. Olken introduced herself to the Select Board as a candidate for Sharon Cultural Council. Ms. Olken has been a resident of Cottage Street for 42 years. She is interested in representing the senior population and in helping as many Sharon artists as possible. Ms. Olken enjoys travelling, spending time with her grandchildren, reading and gardening in her spare time.

Ms. Mridula Satyamurti introduced herself to the Select Board also as a candidate for the Sharon Cultural Council. She moved to Sharon in 2001 and teaches Chemistry at UMass Boston. She has many art and cultural interests. In her free time, she likes to sculpt and paint.

The Board thanked Ms. McLaughlin, Ms. Olken, and Ms. Satyamurti for their time this evening explained that it is the Board's policy not to make appointments on the same night that they meet with candidates, rather they will do so at a future meeting.

Appointments to Economic Development Committee

The following list of candidates have met with the Board over the course of several meetings in consideration of appointment to the Economic Development Committee.

Matthew	Astphan	Milena	Virrankoski
Aleksandar	Tomic	Moshe	Zisblatt

The Board briefly shared their thoughts on the candidates and consensus was reached on Aleksandar Tomic and Milena Virrankoski. The Board felt that they would be most fortunate to have a candidate in Mr. Tomic come aboard considering his professional experience in this area. The Board was also impressed with Ms. Virrankoski's energy and it was questioned whether they could amend the composition to accommodate both candidates. Mr. Shapiro of the Economic Development Committee stated that sharing the responsibilities with an additional member would be a benefit and the Committee would gladly welcome both Mr. Tomic and Ms. Virrankoski.

MOTION: To change the composition of the Economic Development Committee from 7 to 8 members. (Heitin-Switekowski)

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

MOTION: To make the following appointments to the Economic Development Committee: Aleksandar Tomic with a term expiring December 31, 2022 and Milena Virrankoski with a term expiring December 31, 2021.
(Heitin-Switekowski)

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

Town Meeting articles

A list of Town Meeting articles was presented for the Board to review. The warrant closed today for citizen's petitions. It will be six to eight weeks before all articles are finalized and the warrant goes to the printer.

Public art project to celebrate Israeli-Arab relations

Amir Tadmor of the Israeli consulate, along with Al Wilson, and Josie Santos of Beyond Walls delivered a presentation to the Board regarding a feasible spot for an art project to celebrate peace and co-existence between Israel and Arab nations. Since Sharon is home to 6 synagogues, an Islamic center, and a diverse population representing many different countries, it lends itself as a prime location for such a project.

It was explained that this is an introduction to the community and to seek support from the Select Board for such a project.

Issues such as what the dimensional requirements would be, who retains ownership of the artwork, whether there were opportunities for local students or artists with the project and whether there was a design in mind or if the artist is given a theme. There was also a question about protection from vandalism.

It was explained that the property owner would own the artwork but the artist would retain copyright and commercial rights. The featured artwork would be contracted with the artist and all artwork would be family friendly and not overtly political but it would be a commissioned piece for a purpose. With respect to vandalism, a piece has never been tagged as street code generally prevails.

The Board would like to receive public feedback and will take this under advisement at this time. They thanked Mr. Tadmor, Ms. Santos, and Mr. Wilson for taking the time to make this presentation tonight.

Replacement of Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day

This topic came up at the last DEIC meeting. The DEI committee expressed interest in the possibility of having a brief joint meeting with the Select Board, perhaps at the start of a future Select Board meeting with dialog and public interest. There are multiple layers to this issue and there is an opportunity to hear and learn from indigenous people on the topic. It was agreed that time would be allocated at a future meeting.

Police Chief search process

Police Chief Ford faces mandatory retirement in April this year. Deputy Chief Brewer faces the same mandatory retirement ten months later. The Board was requested to give their preference in how to proceed. It is possible to extend the retirement age by special legislation if Chief Ford is amenable. The search process has been executed twice in the recent past and is a lengthy process. The Board stated their preference to hire from within the Police Department. There are a lot of good candidates from which to choose. Mr. Turkington will speak with Chief Ford to explore his interest in remaining for a year and update the Board.

Review and approve consent calendar

- I. Vote to approve the regular session minutes of January 5, 2021
- II. Vote to award a contract for Superpave for a twelve month period commencing February 1, 2021 in the aggregate amount of \$560,800.40
- III. Vote to approve a banner request for Sharon Youth Lacrosse registration from January 25 through February 1, 2021 in 2nd position

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:

Things have been relatively quiet due to the holidays. There were no emails received between the date of the last meeting and the deadline for preparing the agenda for this meeting.

Town Counsel has requested a joint meeting with the ZBA on Wednesday next week if your schedules allow.

The Select Board sector budget is being finalized at this time.

The designation of the solar oversight group will be scheduled for the February 9 meeting.

Capital Outlay is scheduled to do their site visit on January 23 and decision meeting on January 28.

Tax bills have been sent and although higher than usual are actually 1.5 percent less than originally projected as a result of advantageous borrowing. The first two tax bills are calculated at last year's rate and there was brief discussion today between the Assessor and Finance Director about a format for changing the estimated tax bills to reflect rate changes.

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

None

Adjourn

MOTION: To enter executive session at 8:57 pm for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Firefighters Local 1880 IAFF as well as the purchase, transfer, or sale of real property. The Board will not return to open session. Discussion of these items in open session may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Town.
(Heitin – Switekowski)

Heitin: AYE
Switekowski: AYE
Smith-Lee: AYE

3-0 **PASSES**

List of Documents

- Board/Committee applications (3)
- Cultural Council membership list
- Economic Development Committee applicant list
- Board/Committee Applications (4)
- Economic Development Commit membership list
- List of articles
- Email correspondence
- List of communities
- Minutes
- SERSG award form
- Banner request form
- Report