

MINUTES
SHARON SELECT BOARD
March 9, 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 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.

Public hearing – Sharon Market, 17 Post Office Square

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

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

The Board was introduced to Kirankumar Patel, Bharatkumar Patel, Karan Goswami and Viralkumar Goswami of Sankara, Inc. by their representative, Matthew Porter. This application relates to sale of Sharon Market. Viral Goswami is the proposed manager. All four shareholders are also shareholders in several other package stores throughout Massachusetts, all of which operate seamlessly and have no violations. There are no major anticipated changes to the business. Mr. Porter explained that Rockland Trust is helping to finance the business, requiring a pledge of the liquor license.

MOTION: To close the public hearing at 7:05 pm.
(Heitin - Switekowski)

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

MOTION: To approve the liquor license transfer application for Sharon Market as discussed.
(Heitin - Switekowski)

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

MOTION: To approve the pledge of license and pledge of inventory for Sharon Market as discussed.
(Heitin - Switekowski)

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

Introduction from Norfolk County Sheriff, Patrick McDermott

Mr. Patrick McDermott, Norfolk County Sheriff, was in attendance to introduce himself to the Board. He explained he is trying to meet with all 28 Norfolk County community boards within his first 100 days in office. He expounded that the mission of Sheriff's office is to serve as a public safety resource. He feels it is time to

reconsider what public safety means. Mr. McDermott would like to expand upon current programming and community outreach as well as expand leadership camps to provide better access in southern and central areas of Norfolk County. The Sheriff's office has recently implemented the "Are you Okay?" program which has already seen benefits with 3 lives saved. Most recently, a 99 year old woman did not respond to a daily call which immediately activated a strategic response. She had fallen and, as a result of this program, was able to get medical attention. Mr. McDermott explained that programming isn't just about stopping crime, but also fostering residents' feelings of safety.

The Board thanked Mr. McDermott for attending the meeting tonight.

Commission on Disabilities appointments

There were originally two candidates who expressed interest for one position on the Commission on Disabilities. Both candidates have met with both the Commission on Disabilities as well as this Board. Since the interviews with the Select Board, another member has resignation. As both candidates are well fit to serve on the committee, the Board agreed to appoint both Mr. Arnold and Ms. Beckerman-Rodau this evening.

MOTION: To appoint the following appointments to the Commission on Disabilities: Todd Arnold with a term expiring December 31, 2021 and Ruth Beckerman-Rodau with a term expiring December 31, 2023 as discussed.

(Heitin-Switekowski)

Heitin: AYE

Switekowski: AYE

Smith-Lee: AYE

3-0 **PASSES**

Beach and boating rules

This topic was discussed in detail at the last meeting. Ms. Berger has conferred with Town Counsel. With respect to the age of unaccompanied minors at the beach, 12 and under is acceptable. However, Ms. Berger urges that the Board consider that 14 and under due to issues at lake. Fines for violations of the beach and boating rules require a bylaw change. This will be added to next year's annual town meeting warrant and not subject to a vote this evening.

MOTION: To approve the beach and boating rules as discussed, including modification that children under the age of 14 require adult supervision and excluding the proposed changes to fines.

(Heitin – Smith-Lee)

Heitin: AYE

Switekowski: AYE

Smith-Lee: AYE

3-0 **PASSES**

DEI Committee quarterly update

Ms. Pierre-Louis presented the Board with an update of the DEI committee's progress over the last few months. She advised that Ms. Zinno is the Committee's point person in development of a resource guide for boards, committees, and community organizations. The DEIC has been working with the Commission on Disabilities on the repaving of four brick sidewalks. A grant team consisting of Lieutenant Coffey and Ms. Alexis-Janvier has been created to seek additional funding for additional training programs.

Some of the committee's ongoing initiatives include finalizing training for boards and committees, data collection and climate survey, as well as co-sponsorship of community conversations surrounding equity, inclusion, and hate speech.

The Board expressed their appreciation for the committee's efforts thus far and thanked Ms. Pierre-Louis for her time this evening.

Outdoor dining

The Board is taking every opportunity to remind residents to support local businesses. The Board voted on June 9, 2020 to approve outdoor dining per Governor Baker's emergency orders.

MOTION: To affirm the vote of June 9, 2020 approving outdoor seating for restaurants.
(Heitin – Switekowski)

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

Adopt orders of taking for Sharon Gallery

This item was previously approved by Town Meeting for the Sharon Gallery project. Reading of the entire text of the motion is waived.

MOTION: To adopt the orders of taking for the following properties with respect to the Sharon Gallery project: 700 South Main Street, 680 South Main Street, 674 South Main Street, 668 South Main Street, 660 South Main Street and 666 South Main Street.
(Heitin – Switekowski)

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

Declare surplus – 18 & 20 Briar Hill Road

This is part of the process of working with the neighbors on the Massapoag Avenue water tank replacement. There was an adjustment made to the citing of the tank on the Town's parcel. This disposition involves a transfer of 4,907 square feet of land for \$2,000 and will go before town meeting in May for approval.

MOTION: To declare land located at 18 and 20 Briar Hill Road as surplus and subject to disposition as presented.
(Heitin – Switekowski)

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

Add two articles to Town Meeting warrant

A gas utility easement is required for the Sharon High School construction project.

MOTION: To include an article for approval of a gas utility easement at Sharon High School to the Town Meeting Warrant.
(Heitin – Switekowski)

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

66 North Main Street

Ms. Smith-Lee began discussions with an explanation of the status of the culmination of issues surrounding the library construction. The Town voted overwhelmingly, to approve a new library. The Board of Library Trustees are under considerable time restrictions so as not to forfeit the grant funding. At this time, it is felt that there are limited paths to building the library, some of which involve acquisition of some or all of the property located at 66 North Main Street, whether by negotiated agreement or eminent domain.

Several residents were in attendance and expressed their opposition to the use of eminent domain. Several also commented that they would not have supported the library if taking a resident's home or property were required for its construction.

MOTION: To continue to hold a spot on the May Town Meeting Warrant, currently item number 18, for the acquisition of 66 North Main Street by negotiated agreement.
(Heitin – Smith-Lee)

Heitin: AYE
Switekowski: NO
Smith-Lee: AYE
2-1 **PASSES**

MOTION: To remove zoning bylaw change for One School Street, currently item number 19, from the May Town Meeting Warrant.
(Heitin – Switekowski)

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

MOTION: To include the proposed eminent domain articles for acquisition of some or all of 66 North Main Street on the May Town Meeting Warrant.
(Smith-Lee – Heitin)

Heitin: NO
Switekowski: NO
Smith-Lee: AYE
1-2 **FAILS**

Sequence and take position on Town Meeting articles

Art. #	Article	Sponsor	SB Vote
1	Appoint Finance Committee Members & Nominating Committee of the Finance Committee Members	Nominating Committee of the Finance Committee	3-0 Support
2	Special Legislation to Change Name of the Board of Selectmen to Select Board	Select Board	3-0 Support
3	Conveyance of Parcel of Town-Owned Land at 18 Briar Hill Road	Select Board	3-0 Support
4	Personnel By-Law	Personnel Board	3-0 Support
5	FY2022 Budget & Compensation of Elected Officials	Finance Committee	3-0 Support
6	Capital Outlay	Select Board	3-0 Support
7	Community Preservation Act Annual Funding & Projects	Community Preservation Committee	3-0 Support
8	Norfolk County Retirement Annual Assessment	Select Board	3-0 Support
9	Unemployment Fund	Select Board	3-0 Support
10	Funding Other Post-Employment Benefits (O.P.E.B.) Trust Fund	Select Board	3-0 Support
11	Funding Assessor Inspection Services	Board of Assessors	3-0 Support
12	Annual Audit Appropriation	Select Board	3-0 Support
13	Revolving Fund Authorizations	Select Board	3-0 Support
14	Property Tax Exemptions	Select Board	3-0 Support
15	Act on Reports	Select Board	3-0 Support
16	Sharon Friends School Fund Records & Appointments	Select Board	3-0 Support
17	Community Septic Management Program Participation Authorization	Board of Health	3-0 Support
18	Acquisition of 66 North Main Street	Select Board	Hold
19	Grant of Gas Utility Easement for High School	Select Board	3-0 Support
20	Citizen Petition – Home Rule Petition to Increase Membership of Select Board from Three to Five	Citizen Petition	Hold

Set date for Annual Town Meeting

MOTION: To set the date for Annual Town Meeting at 1:00 pm on Sunday, May 2, 2021 which will be held outdoors, under a tent at the Sharon Middle School pursuant to Governor Baker's emergency orders with respect to large gatherings.
(Heitin – Switlekowski)

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

Preliminary Select Board sector budget

MOTION: To approve the Select Board sector budget as presented.
(Heitin – Switekowski)

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

Review and approve consent calendar

- I. Minutes
 - a. February 23, 2021 regular session minutes
 - b. February 23, 2021 Executive session minutes
- II. Fee waiver for Veterans Memorial Park to celebrate Women Veterans' Appreciation Day on June 11, 2021
- III. Contract for interim Police Chief, Donald Brewer
- IV. Out-of-state travel for Officer George Demeris and K9 Officer Buck to attend tactical K9 Medicine Course

MOTION: To approve the consent calendar holding item number II.
(Heitin-Switekowski)

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

Regarding the fee waiver for Veterans Memorial Park, the Women Veterans' Appreciate Day is traditionally held at the state capital. This year will feature recognition of Deborah Sampson. The state has agreed to pay all direct costs therefore, no action is needed at this time.

Report of the Town Administrator

Mr. Turkington provided the following update for the Board.

- Adopted budget presenting to FIN COM March 22 will prepare coversheets and back up for SSB sector budget get out middle of next week.
- Engineering/Planning Specialist. The Personnel Board approved the job description and classified the position within the MP contract so we can begin recruitment. As you will recall, the assistant town engineer left for Foxborough as their town engineer nearly a year ago. We elevated the health agent to assistant town engineer. While he kept that portfolio, we modified the lower level engineer/land use professional to support the Planning Board and some of the other temporary advisory committees that

overwhelm Town Engineer Peter O'Cain (Transportation Advisory, Library Reuse, etc.). The hiring salary for the position is \$62,038, increasing to \$62,968 on July 1, 2021.

- Hiring of planning and economic development consultant. We received four proposals from consultants to work 15-20 hours per week on implementation of the Master Plan and to support economic development initiatives. All were well qualified, but the fee proposals far exceed the allocated funding. After consulting with the Planning Board and EDC, we are recruiting a part-time employee in lieu of a consultant; the closing date is March 10.
- Job description review and rating for Assistant Town Administrator. The Personnel Board will meet on Wednesday, March 10 at 7:00 p.m. to review and rate the job description for Assistant Town Administrator. They have asked for a Select Board member to be present for the discussion.

Thirty pieces of correspondence were received between 12 noon on February 18 and 12 noon on March 4:

- Emails from four residents asking the Board to change the designation of Columbus Day to Indigenous People's Day.
- A series of emails from Joe and Jacqueline Chambers asking for sidewalks, traffic mitigation measures and speed enforcement on Old Post Road and responses to the request from town engineer and town administrator; an email from Carolyn Willis sharing similar concerns about speed and vehicles turning around in her driveway; and emails from Paresht Motiwala and Omar Mansour advocating for a 25MPH speed limit, speed tables, sidewalks, and road closures during Gillette Stadium events.
- A series of emails from Sustainable Sharon Coalition and four other residents commenting on the proposed increase and allocation of the quarterly fee for solid waste and recycling collection and disposal.
- Emails from Ruth Beckerman and Janet Sherman regarding the library zoning variance litigation and response from town administrator.
- Emails from three residents urging the Board to support an increase in the budget allocation to the schools and from four residents thanking the Board for doing so at the Priorities Committee vote on February 25.

Standard & Poors affirmed the Town's AA bond rating. Fourteen bids were received for with the winning bid having a 1.36% interest rate for \$25 million debt which will save the Town approximately \$1.6 million over ten years.

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

None

Adjourn

MOTION: To adjourn at 9:25 pm.
(Heitin – Switlekowski)

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

List of Documents

- Application materials
- Legal notice
- Talking points
- Board/Committee applications (2)
- Commission on Disabilities membership list
- Correspondence
- Beach and boating rules

- DEI Committee report
- Minutes of Jun 9, 2020
- Sharon bylaws Ch. 113
- Orders of taking
- Memorandum
- Plans and map
- Draft articles (2)
- Segregation of land plans
- Zoning table
- List of articles
- Updated article text
- Preliminary budget
- Minutes
- Draft contract agreement
- Memorandum
- Town Administrator's report
- Correspondence