

MINUTES
SHARON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
October 6, 2015

The meeting of the Sharon Board of Selectmen was called to order in the Town Hearing Room at the Sharon Community Center at 7:03pm with Chairman William A. Heitin, Clerk Walter B. Roach, Selectman John J. McGrath, and Town Administrator Frederic E. Turkington, Jr.

Kathleen Medeiros - Council on Aging Director Interview

Mr. Turkington introduced the members of the screening committee, who interviewed several candidates for the position.

Chairman Heitin welcomed Ms. Medeiros to Sharon. He asked Ms. Medeiros to tell the Board about her education and experiences and how it has prepared her to work as a director of senior citizen services and programs. Ms. Medeiros explained that she has lived in Massachusetts for most of her life. Her background is in physical education and has worked for HESSCO for the past ten years, where she is the Information & Referral Specialist. She noted her knowledge of the Town of Sharon as a result of her work at HESSCO.

Selectman Roach asked Ms. Medeiros how she would advance the services of the COA. She thought about doing a needs assessment to see what people think should be provided in terms of services and programs. He then asked Ms. Medeiros if she has visited the Adult Center, met the staff and observed some of the programs. She replied that she recalls when the COA was in the basement of the old building. She visited the Adult Center on Friday and met with several staff. He asked about how involved with Sharon Ms. Medeiros is with HESSCO. She replied that they receive calls from Sharon residents and assists them and serves a contact for the transportation program that Sharon can use to get seniors to medical appointments.

Selectman McGrath noted that Ms. Medeiros has a lot of excellent experience and had no questions for her.

Chairman Heitin asked about Ms. Medeiros about her personal strengths and how they could help her in this job. She replied that teamwork is one of her key strengths and added that she has taken courses in grant writing. He then asked what she likes to do for fun. Ms. Medeiros enjoys reading, going to the gym, running, stitchery and kayaking.

Chairman Heitin asked her what she thought of the interview process. She noted that the town communicated with her during the process and was very appreciative of that.

Ms. Medeiros asked Chairman Heitin if there are any plans or goals for the department. Chairman Heitin believes that creating new programs is important so they don't get stale and encompass the diverse population.

Mr. Turkington asked what programs of which you are aware or have observed in dealing with comparable towns through your work at HESSCO would you consider trying in Sharon. She noted that Foxborough started a program on balance, which is an interesting and valuable program.

Chairman Heitin thanked Ms. Medeiros for her time and told her that the Board would be making a decision by their next meeting in two weeks.

Doris Ann Gladstone - Council on Aging Board Interview

Chairman Heitin asked Ms. Gladstone to speak about her and her involvement with the Town. Ms. Gladstone has been active in town for 50 years, in such groups as the League of Women Voters and the Friends of the Council on Aging. She noted that the senior population is a growing population and wants to be more active in finding solutions to the problems that come with a growing senior population. Chairman Heitin asked about the Craft's Corner. Ms. Gladstone stated that it has been in existence for four years and is making money. They are looking for Sharon artisans and is open from 11-1 Tuesday-Thursday.

Selectman Roach asked Ms. Gladstone what she likes to do for fun. She replied that she volunteers for the Society for Arts and Crafts in Boston.

Chairman Heitin thanked her for her time and noted that the Board does not generally appoint the same night they conduct the interview and that the Board would be in touch.

Mignonne Murray - Council on Aging Director Interview

Chairman Heitin welcomed Ms. Murray to Sharon. He asked Ms. Murray to tell the Board about her education and experiences and how it has prepared her to work as a director of senior citizen services and programs. Ms. Murray has worked with older adults since 2002. She served as the Resident Services Coordinator for the Newton Housing Authority and left to live for several years in Wales, where she worked in 55+ housing. After returning from Wales, she served as the Assistant Council on Aging Director and Program Developer for the Division of Human Services and Council on Aging and since last August she is serving as the Executive Director of the Auburn Senior Center. She feels the combination of skills makes this job in Sharon appealing.

Ms. Murray added that the Community Center is beautiful and Sharon is known in the COA network as a progressive center and the programs are innovative and appealing to a wide audience.

Selectman McGrath asked about her time in Wales. She replied that her husband did his Master's and PhD in Wales but is glad to be home. She worked the 55+ housing field while in Wales.

Selectman Roach asked how she would advance the services and programs. She would seek the input of those they serve to determine what services and programs are needed and desired. He went on to ask if she has been in the Adult Center and she replied that she was in the building last week for a nutrition seminar and saw some of the programs wrapping up.

Chairman Heitin asked Ms. Murray what her strengths are and how they would apply to Sharon, a diverse background. Ms. Murray noted that it has been historically difficult to get a diverse population into senior centers and would work to continue programming and create avenues to get more seniors in. She admitted that some seniors don't feel comfortable coming into senior centers.

Selectman McGrath asked what her greatest accomplishment has been in Auburn. Ms. Murray noted that they installed 5 handicapped accessible doors, increased the number of van drivers, two national COA pilot programs came to Auburn and worked with the library to attract folks that wouldn't normally come to the senior center. She added that the director position is the only full-time position and that has been a challenging environment.

Chairman Heitin asked about her experience with writing and obtaining grants. She said that they are time consuming but they have been successful getting several grants.

Chairman Heitin asked what she does for fun. She plays tennis, reads and loves to travel. He then asked what she thought of the application process. Ms. Murray was very happy with the process.

Chairman Heitin thanked Ms. Murray for her time and told her that the Board would be making a decision by their next meeting in two weeks.

Consent Calendar

- I. Vote to approve regular and executive session minutes of September 24, 2015
- II. Vote to approve the Veteran's Day banner for November 2-12, 2015 in second position - consider waiving fee of \$25.00
- III. Vote to approve the One Book, One Town banner for February 29-March 7, 2016 in first position and March 14-21, 2016 in second position - consider waiving fee of \$50.00 (\$25 per occurrence)
- IV. Vote to appoint Robert Hutton as an alternate member to the Historical Commission
- V. Vote to approve One-Day Alcohol License to Lavishly Dunn Catering for a wedding at the Community Center on Saturday, October 17, 2015

MOTION: To approve the October 6, 2015 consent calendar
(Roach - McGrath) 3-0 **PASSES**

Town Administrator's Report

The Town Administrator reported the following:

- Thanked the Board for allowing him the opportunity to attend the ICMA Conference in Sharon.
- There may be an interim appointment to the Treasurer/Collector vacancy and will have additional information at the Board's next meeting.
- The requirements of the ACA include tracking and filing of reports confirming insurance enrollment. We have contracted with WorxTime, an affiliate of American Fidelity, to perform these tasks at an annual cost of \$20,000 to be paid from the self-insurance fund. A policy establishing time frames for notification of coverages will appear on the October 20 consent calendar. The Board will need to make a decision about railroad parking fees and process by the next meeting.
- If the Board has any goals to add to the approved goals and objectives, that can be done at the next meeting.
- There will be a site walk on Tuesday, October 13 at 1:30pm at 63 Canton Street to observe the proposed Eversource switching station site. Selectman Roach and Selectman McGrath indicated that they would attend the site walk.

Medical Marijuana Facility Follow-Up Discussion - Four Daughters Compassionate Care, Inc.

Brian Striar and Stan Rosen were present for the follow-up discussion. Chairman Heitin said that one of the items that was left open was about security. Mr. Rosen noted that Selectman Roach asked at the last meeting about the frequency of inspections. He explained that there are monthly scheduled state inspections and also monthly unscheduled state inspections. He added that the location is unique - it is a separate piece of land that is by itself and can be designed appropriately.

Selectman McGrath explained that he reviewed the concerns that Chief Kaufman had and the responses provided by Four Daughters and does not have any further questions.

Mr. Rosen said that they have invested a lot of time and effort in bringing this issue to the Board of Selectmen and noted that Sharon is welcoming of new concepts and ideas. They feel they can do a good job following all of the rules and regulations in this process.

Chairman Heitin said that the Board will regroup with the two chiefs and will not be making a position tonight, as there is another group making a presentation tonight. The Board will be making a decision in short order; they don't want to keep people hanging.

Medical Marijuana Facility Presentation - Beacon Compassion Center

Stephen Angelo, Executive Director, Catherine Cametti, General Manager, Kris Krane, Medical Marijuana Dispensary Consultant and Bob Lobel, Director were present for the discussion.

Ms. Cametti provided an overview of the management team, including their credentials. They put together an outstanding board, including Mr. Lobel, who is present tonight.

There are 15 dispensaries moving through the DPH process and three presently open. Ms. Cametti described that they are in step 2 of the application process. She provided the background on obtaining a medical marijuana card.

Beacon Compassion will be implementing a state-of-the-art security system, so that only those with access can get indoors. Ms. Cametti informed the Board that 6 Merchant Street, Unit 5 is the targeted location and that there will be no cultivation at this site and they will not provide delivery service for their patients. If approved by the town and state, they would expect to be open in one year.

Ms. Cametti explained that Beacon Compassion Center received a commitment of a letter of support from the Town of Framingham for a dispensary in that community.

As part of the host community agreement, Beacon Compassion Center would agree to providing the Town of Sharon 3% of gross revenue with a \$250,000 cap.

Mr. Lobel spoke about how he took painkillers but didn't want to get addicted and that medical marijuana is about dealing with pain and believes this is the right way to go. He understands why fear exists, because people are uneducated. He is happy to be in a position to help and push forward and is confident in this team.

Ms. Cametti spoke about the potential of a ballot question that would grant legalization of marijuana for recreational use- Beacon is committed to medical marijuana and any change would require town approval.

Mr. Angelo provided information about the location, and the copy of the application of intent. They are fully funded and don't have to secure funding if approved, as they already have it. The last document shows the three applications that Beacon has in the process, which is all directly from DPH's website. They are hopeful that they reach step 3, the final step in the process.

Ms. Cametti thanked the Board for hearing their presentation.

Selectman McGrath noted that the Town of Sharon supported medical marijuana by a wide margin, but added the Board is keenly aware that there is a huge difference between medical and recreational marijuana. Selectman McGrath asked Mr. Lobel if it has been challenging for him to get medical marijuana here in Massachusetts. Mr. Lobel replied that he has to go to Oregon to get it with the help of his daughter, his caregiver.

Chairman Heitin asked about the other communities they are speaking with. Ms. Cametti noted that they have received commitment from Framingham and is working with another community. They are also looking at another community to hold a cultivation site.

Selectman McGrath asked about the benefits of separating the dispensary and the cultivation site. Mr. Angelo said that there is a lot of traffic/access associated with cultivation. He said that their dispensaries will have enough just enough inventory and will not have a lot of money on-site either. Ms. Cametti added that is more cost-effective to separate the two locations.

In response to a question about security from Selectman Roach, Mr. Angelo spoke about the delivery and acceptance process at length, which includes biometric access, alarms, video cameras and delivery vehicles would be required to randomize their routes and times for delivery, as well as have two dispensary agents, with one in the vehicle at all times. Mr. Krane added that only specific staff would have access to the delivery site and only 1 or 2 employees would have access to the vault.

Selectman Roach asked if they have leased the site and Mr. Angelo replied that they have submitted a letter of intent to the property owner.

Linda Rosen, 9 Marie Avenue, asked if the site is in an industrial site and Mr. Angelo replied that it is. He pointed out that this site is close to Route 1, which is ideal for patient access. She expressed concern that the candy store is in the same building.

A resident asked if the Board is only going to issue one letter and Chairman Heitin replied that he believes it is the Board's intent to issue only one. The resident pointed out that the other applicant has lived in Sharon for a long time and should be granted the one letter.

Andrew Mehlman, 2 Old Wolomolopoag Street, asked if they have a cultivation site. Mr. Angelo replied that they are working toward securing a site. Mr. Mehlman asked if they get multiple letters of support from multiple communities, what is to say that they will go or not go with Sharon. Mr. Angelo replied that any organization can be granted up to 3 licenses. Mr. Krane explained the step 3 process to Mr. Mehlman and that each application package is considered on its own merit.

Ronna Wallace, 14 Robin Road, asked if the application materials are public record. Chairman Heitin replied that everything is public information.

The Board took a brief recess.

COA Director Search Discussion

The Board returned to open session at 8:36pm after a brief recess.

Chairman Heitin asked if the Board would be willing to hold off on a vote until the next meeting but would like to have a brief discussion about the candidates now. Selectman Roach and Selectman McGrath would like to have a discussion with the screening committee and the Council on Aging Board.

The vote on the railroad parking issues will take place on October 20. Chairman Heitin brought up the possibility of having a meeting next week as well. Selectman McGrath wants to get the input on this new dispensary proposal from the two chiefs. Selectman Roach has some questions of Beacon that he will reach out directly to them.

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

Planned power outage by Eversource in the Pond Street area of town on Friday, October 23 for a window of time and that additional notice will be coming from Eversource.

Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn at 8:40pm
(Roach - McGrath) 3-0 **PASSES**