

**MINUTES**  
**SHARON BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
*January 31, 2017*

The meeting of the Sharon Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:04pm in the Town Hearing Room at the Sharon Community Center with Chairman Walter B. Roach, Clerk John J. McGrath, Selectman William A. Heitin and Town Administrator Frederic E. Turkington, Jr.

Chairman Roach acknowledged the presence of four students from the Middle School (Verizon App Challenge Team Empower). They explained the purpose and vision of their app and shared instructions for “Fan Favorite” voting—Selectmen Heitin voted in real time. The Empower team is currently 5<sup>th</sup> out of 104 teams nationwide. Board thanked and congratulated them.

**Library FY18 Budget Review**

Library Director Lee Ann Amend was present for the discussion. Ms. Amend summarized the budget as having an overall 2.91% increase. The Board thanked Ms. Amend for her time.

**Library Director Recognition Award Discussion**

Cheryl Weinstein, Chair of the Library Board of Trustees, was present for the discussion.

Ms. Weinstein inquired whether the Board had established criteria for the Executive Group Recognition Award. Chairman Roach explained that they have not yet established criteria and asked her to share highpoints regarding her recommendation of Lee Ann Amend. Ms. Weinstein cited Ms. Amend’s work with the Partners in Health programming series pertaining to Alzheimer’s disease. This program has led to her being asked to speak at a legislative breakfast in Randolph on February 24; Tabling a legislative day at the State House on March 7; and the series is now receiving statewide, even national attention.

Selectmen Heitin suggested establishing a formal committee to establish criteria for the recognition award and revisit her recommendation at a later date. The Board thanked Ms. Weinstein for her time.

**2017 Lake Massapoag Fees Public Hearing, Approval of Outdoor Usage Application; Youth Soccer Sponsorship**

Recreation Director Linda Berger and representatives of the Recreation Advisory Committee were present for the discussion. Ms. Berger introduced nine new rate scenarios for the beach season and explained that Recreation is looking to: streamline previously complicated rates, determine best practices, and consolidate categories.

She noted that minimum wage went up by \$1 an hour and recommended an increased pattern of life guard rotations to four on weekdays, six on weekends. Also, that all children 5 and up shall wear a tag and all children must be accompanied by an adult.

She noted that on November 16 the Recreation Advisory Committee wrote to support her “Scenario 8” recommendation. However, she received new information today which refers to an MGL statute that affects Scenario 8– she provided an addendum that was created in coordination with legal counsel.

**MOTION:** To open the public hearing regarding 2017 Lake Massapoag Beach Fees at 7:24pm

Selectman McGrath questioned whether the Town lost money at the Community Center (CC) gates. Ms. Berger replied that the shortfall was due to combined overhead costs of both town and non-resident side beaches.

Regarding CC side itself, closing one hour earlier saves \$11K. Increasing pass to \$150 ensures break even. Selectman Heitin inquired why Recreation is separating the two programs (resident v nonresident). Why not maximize pass sales to enable maximum guard coverage? CC-side visitors never come until after 5p.

Selectman McGrath sees break-even at CC beach problematic because we're not providing anything other than gate guard, no life guard. Non-resident children are just as important as resident children. Inequality is a liability issue. What is service/value if no life guard? Fred Turkington replied, "access and parking."

Selectman McGrath recommends Scenario 4. Although a \$12K shortage, it gives us lifeguards and is a more unified system (as opposed to two separate programs).

Mr. Turkington gave background for shortfall: The deficit estimates are based on how well they can predict sales (tag & parking fee). With this (split) scenario they have the flexibility to phase-in change so as not to shock residents. Mr. Turkington made reference to Gary Bluestein, Chair of the Recreation Advisory Committee, in audience.

Mr. Bluestein said residents would NOT like combined use as there is very little use at the CC (non-resident) beach—they only come after 5p. The issue is that if we're short 25-30K, what do we do? Where does that come from? The Recreation income is weather-dependent; they are only looking to cover costs—recreation is not a profit center.

Chairman Roach agrees with Selectman McGrath regarding the need for gate guard coverage at the CC beach. The public-side users come here later at night. It's a different type of use. Fred Turkington suggests shifting the window of hours to address later usage at the public beach and asked Ms. Berger if she ran a model for this. No, she did not. Selectman McGrath asked for a model to be run that reflects the changing of hours to include the heavy-use times at public beach.

Mr. Bluestein replied: They are coming after 5p because it's free so, you may not get anyone. Selectmen Heitin countered: Or, you may make more money.

Selectman McGrath asked questions regarding the disabled resident rates vs. Purple Heart rates and asked if there is no longer a separate fee? Ms. Berger replied that these categories would all be unified under a "reduced" model, whereby seniors, disabled, veterans, and Purple Heart recipients would all charged the same rate. Currently, the senior rate is \$12 for season; car is \$25 for season. This reflects a \$3 increase. Purple Heart cost was \$0 last year; there were 3 users of this discount.

Selectman McGrath explained that the Purple Heart category is different than disabled veterans. You can be a Purple Heart recipient and not be disabled. He wants to make sure that this discount is properly promoted this year. It is unlikely that vets will inquire or seek out a break in anything—they have self-pride. But, if they see it advertised, they are more likely to take advantage of it. He wants to make sure that it is aggressively promoted and included in the recreation brochure this year. Ms. Berger replied that meeting the 2017 brochure's print deadline is dependent upon their making this decision tonight.

Selectman Heitin said to Ms. Berger: We need your recommendation. I think we should have lifeguards at the (public) beach. The minimum wage bump is the driver to our deficit.

Mr. Turkington requested that Ms. Berger go back to her office to run additional scenario--go back to parking pass and tag for non-resident-- and come back after Executive Session to give those results.

Chairman Roach asked for public comments. There were none.

**MOTION:** To close the public hearing re: 2017 Lake Massapoag Beach Fees.

(Heitin-McGrath) 3-0 **PASSES**

Discussion commenced regarding the new "Lake Massapoag & Bandstand Usage Application" and Fee Schedule. Recreation Director Linda Berger was present for the discussion. Ms. Berger stated that previously there was no vetting process or application for using the bandstand, bathrooms, etc. They need to have a fee schedule in place, establish organization and structure.

Selectman Heitin noted that this application is a great asset--it supports the Director's request to charge a fee and said that that there should continue to be zero fee for town programs, and a nominal amount for other groups.

Selectman McGrath noted that if someone wants to waive fee, the Selectmen have that discretion and that Police details are outside of this contract.

Mr. Turkington inquired about possible typo in the fee schedule grid at "up to 50" / "Out of Town Non-Profit." Ms. Berger affirmed that yes, the number at this cell is a typo and she will correct.

**MOTION:** To open the public hearing regarding the Fee Schedule within the 2017 Lake Massapoag & Bandstand Usage Application.

(Heitin-McGrath) 3-0 **PASSES**

Ms. Berger noted that the fee schedule refers to groups that use bathrooms, etc. during summer months. Mr. Bluestein commented on the mess that these groups create. There was an "understanding" that they would clean up after themselves but, they did not.

Chairman Roach inquired whether the snack shack is out to bid. Ms. Berger puts the bid out in March.

No other comments.

**MOTION:** To close the public hearing regarding the Fee Schedule within the 2017 Lake Massapoag & Bandstand Usage Application.

(Heitin-McGrath) 3-0 **PASSES**

**MOTION:** To accept the 2017 Lake Massapoag & Bandstand Usage Application, as discussed.

(Heitin-McGrath) 3-0 **PASSES**

## Recreation FY18 Budget Review

Ms. Berger gave an overview of the FY18 Recreation budget by noting significant shifts/key changes. She feels that they can reduce costs in the areas of electricity and equipment maintenance. However, she feels that an increase is warranted in four areas:

1. Phone increase to cover Asst. Director
2. Repairs to the lifeguard "shack"-not the lifeguard stand (roughly estimated at \$2,500)
3. Increase out-of-state travel for staff education
4. Upgrades to the PA system (it is antiquated @ approx. 30 years old)

Also, Paul Driscoll, Treasurer & Board Member for the Soccer Association and former coach, is here to request the Selectmen support for the youth soccer program to generate revenue through hanging sponsored banners at Gavins Pond to support their scholarship program.

Currently, 90% of their revenue is from registration fees. They also receive revenue through sponsor logos on their game shirts. They would like to pursue a third source: revenue from fencing banners--similar model to softball and baseball programs.

There was no other comment.

**MOTION:** To accept the Soccer Association and Recreation Advisory Committee recommendation that Sharon Youth Soccer be permitted to hang banners at Gavins Pond to support their scholarship program.

(Heitin-McGrath) 3-0 **PASSES**

## Pole Relocation Public Hearing

Kelly-Ann Correia, Right of Way Specialist for UC Synergetic representing Verizon, was present for the public hearing. She gave the following summary: this is a matter of simply increasing the span from the pole at the corner of Common Street by introducing a mid-span pole, in order to keep the wire tight. This resolves a safety issue due to placement of existing pole.

**MOTION:** To open the public hearing for Verizon petition for Pole Relocation at 995 Old Post Road at 8:00pm.

(Heitin-McGrath) 3-0 **PASSES**

**MOTION:** To close the public hearing for Verizon petition for Pole Relocation at 995 Old Post Road at 8:01 pm

(Heitin-McGrath) 3-0 **PASSES**

**MOTION:** To approve the Verizon petition for Pole Relocation at 995 Old Post Road.

(Heitin-McGrath) 3-0 **PASSES**

## Proposed Energy/Gas Pipeline Letter to Legislature Discussion

The Board will take up this issue at a future meeting.

## Conservation Commission Interview – Michael Donatelle

Michael Donatelle appeared before the Board and introduced himself. He has been a lawyer for 24 years; also has a finance services background; has worked in education and on issues of regulatory compliance; and has a personal commitment to the environment.

Selectman Heitin asked if he follows the Committee. Mr. Donatelle replied yes and that he knows several people on the Committee. Selectman Heitin noted that Conservation has an immediate need for this appointment; they are not making quorum.

Chairman Roach stated that he would like to vote tonight.

**MOTION:** To appoint Michael Donatelle to the Conservation Commission (3-yr term).  
(Heitin-McGrath) 3-0 **PASSES**

## Consent Calendar

- I. Vote to approve regular & executive session minutes of January 17, 2017
- II. Vote to approve Sharon Lions Club request to hold “White Cane Day” on Saturday, May 13, 2017 in Sharon center from 9:30 am to 12:30 noon
- III. Vote to approve Tilden Kaufman’s request that Lt. Donald Brewer be appointed as the Records Access Officer for the Police Department
- IV. Vote to approve and sign One Day Liquor License Request for resident Jill Goldberg for a private event on March 11, 2017 at the Sharon CC from 1-5 pm
- V. Vote to approve banner request from Brotherhood of Temple Israel for March 6-13 in first position re: “37th Annual Auction”

**MOTION:** To approve the January 31, 2017 consent calendar, as presented.  
(Mcgrath-Heitin) 3-0 **PASSES**

## Town Administrator’s Report

Mr. Turkington addressed:

1. Letter received from Edgehill Road Holdings LLC and communicated to the Selectmen that the State (Mass Housing) will be doing a site visit on February 7 at 10a, with a March 1 deadline for comments. He noted that this letter came with an attachment citing waiver requests. The list of requested waivers include: front and rear setbacks, building height, % of lot coverage, water resource protection... At first thought, it is probably too large for the site. For example, the Town has a 35’ height limit; they’re looking for 43’. ZBA is the permitting authority on this.
2. Governor Baker’s proposed budget includes \$83K higher than the revenue estimates that we submitted. Right now, we have \$133K when priorities committee reconvenes. Selectman Heitin commented that this will go to pay down the levy.
3. The Water Management Advisory Committee is proposing a rate increase. Hearing is March 14, for April 1 implementation.

4. Warrant articles; he is currently working with Counsel on three zoning articles.

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

Chairman Roach asked if there are any topics. There were none.

Hearing none, Chairman Roach began to motion that they would be entering into Executive Session. Selectman Heitin interjected that will need to enter back into public session to finalize the Massapoag Beach Fees before they adjourn.

**Reconvening of public session re: 2017 Lake Massapoag Beach Fees**

Linda Berger provided a tenth rate scenario, which addressed the Selectmen's requested hours and lifeguard coverage but, still yields at shortfall of \$23K. Selectman McGrath requested that Ms. Berger continue to seek ways to reduce costs for seniors next year as they are on fixed incomes and even a \$3 increase impacts that demographic. She replied that, yes, she would.

**MOTION:** To accept Scenario 10 for 2017 Lake Massapoag Beach Fees, as discussed.  
(Mcgrath-Heitin) 3-0 **PASSES**

**Executive Session - 8:40pm**

**MOTION:** Chairman Roach motioned to enter into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation. Discussion of these items in open session would be detrimental to the bargaining position of the Town. Following that, they will enter back into public session to finalize the Massapoag Beach Fees, and at the end, adjourn of the evening.  
(Mcgrath-Heitin) 3-0 **PASSES**

Roach: Aye  
McGrath: Aye  
Heitin: Aye

**Adjournment**

**MOTION:** To adjourn at 8:50pm  
(Heitin - McGrath) 3-0 **PASSES**

McGrath: Aye  
Roach: Aye  
Heitin: Aye

List of Documents:

1. FY2018 Library budget (budget binder tab 29)
2. 01 12 2017 Letter from Cheryl Weinstein
3. 12 21 2016 Email from L. Berger re: Recreation proposals with attachments:
  - a. Fee Structure 16 v17 (2 pgs)
  - b. 12 16 2016 Memo from L. Berger re: Action Items (2 pgs)
  - c. Outdoor Usage Application 16 v4 (3 pgs)
  - d. Fee Structure Amendment w/M.G.L. Chapter 21/Section 17C (4 pgs)
  - e. Fee Structure Scenario 10
  - f. FY2018 Recreation budget (budget binder tab 30)
4. 01 06 2017 Memo from P. O'Cain, Town Engineer
5. 12 22 2016 Letter from A.E. Bessette, Verizon Right of Way Manager re: Petition for Verizon Job #4A0RM7D with attachments:
  - a. Petition
  - b. Petition Plan
  - c. Order
6. 01 19 2017 Email from Bri McAlevey of NoSharonGasPipeline.org with linked documents:
  - a. <http://www.mass.gov/eea/air-water-climate-change/climate-change/massachusetts-global-warming-solutions-act/>
  - b. <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/doer/electric-deregulation/mm3.pdf>
7. 01 11 2017 Email from Bri McAlevey of NoSharonGasPipeline.org with attachment:
  - a. 03 14 16 Letter from City of Newton re: Solar net metering credits (solarletfinal.pdf)
8. 01 04 2017 Email from Bri McAlevey of NoSharonGasPipeline.org with attachment:
  - a. Letter to Legislature from Municipal Officials (google doc form)
9. Michael Donatelle cover letter & resume
10. January 17 Board of Selectmen minutes
11. 01 13 2017 Letter from Michael Levine, Chairperson White Cane Day
12. 01 19 2017 Memo from Chief Kaufman
13. One Day Liquor License Request for a private event on March 11, 2017
14. Banner request form from Brotherhood of Temple Israel
15. 01 25 2017 Letter from Cantor Alan Kritz
16. Town Administrator Bi-weekly report of 1/27/17