

MINUTES
SHARON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
October 2, 2018

The meeting of the Sharon Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:00pm in the Town Hearing Room at the Sharon Community Center with Chairman William A. Heitin, Clerk Walter B. Roach, Jr., Selectwoman Emily E. Smith-Lee, 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.

Sharon Library Foundation – Update on Library Project Fundraising Initiatives

Board of Library Trustees Chairman Cheryl Weinstein introduced Sarah Graf and Deena Segal of the Sharon Library Foundation as well as fellow Trustees Bob Levin, Carolyn Weeks and Loretta O'Brien before turning the floor over to Ms. Graf. The Foundation's mission is to raise funds to offset Town funding for a new library building at One School Street. The Library is expected to receive a Provisional Grant of \$7.5M. The total project cost for the new library is expected to be in the area of \$17.5M. The Foundation has received roughly \$100,000 in donations despite not having officially kicked-off any fundraising initiatives. Ms. Graf explained that fundraising efforts are in the infancy stages and the organization is open to suggestions.

The Foundation is a 501c3 Organization. They have an operational website, sharonpubliclibraryfoundation.org, and are able to collect donations via that platform.

The Board was impressed with the donation sums collected at this early stage and were very appreciative of Foundation Volunteers for this undertaking.

Discussion – Future Use of Library Building

Mr. Fred Turkington explained that Library has engaged various consultants in the past to provide advice on maintenance of the building. He explained that the building is a Town asset, regardless of its future use. Should a new library building be constructed, the existing library would eventually be turned over the Board of Selectmen for disposition. This meeting seemed like a timely opportunity to engage in a general discussion of the future of the building. Lee Ann Amend, Library Director; Facilities Supervisor, Matt Baldassari; Bob Levin and Cheryl Weinstein of the Library Trustees, and Ira Miller and Anja Bernier of the Finance Committee were in attendance and took part in the discussion.

Ms. Amend, researched over 200 pages of DPW reports and found that when the building was renovated in 1960, four lally columns and a structural support beam were removed and feels that this is the beginning of the history of recurring building issues. Ms. Amend described the history of structural, drainage and roofing issues.

Mr. Turkington asked whether the Library was required to document the cost to renovate as part of their Grant Application. The cost to rebuild the building as-is, with no addition, would be \$8.5 million. As the estimate for repairs exceeds \$400,000, which is 30 percent of the cost, all building code requirements must be met for the building. When asked about a breakdown of the \$8.5 million figure, Ms. Amend explained that she could provide a breakdown from the Architect. The library received a high level estimate. A feasibility study must be done for a full cost estimate but acquiring an estimate to fix the structural, drainage, roofing deficiencies would not require such a costly study. Mr. Baldassari, Facilities Supervisor, suggested that having the structural issues assessed may cost in the neighborhood of \$10,000 to \$12,000.

Mr. Levin, Library Trustee, suggested putting together a study committee to look at the potential for the building and property. Mr. Miller stated that the Finance Committee has expressed concerns in past meetings and discussions about spending money to renovate a building that will no longer be used a library.

Ultimately, until funding for a new Library is secured at Town Meeting, although plans can be made for the existing building, its future is uncertain. Chairman Heitin explained the Board's position that the building deficiencies aren't exclusively Library issues rather this is a historical asset to the Town. If and when the Library moves to a new building on School Street, which the Board has been supportive of, the Town will have to do something with this existing building and the Board would like to avoid the possibility of having another situation like the Wilbur School.

Proposal - Sharon Porchfest Summer/Fall 2019 - Cultural Council

Paige Davis presented a proposal for a Porchfest in Sharon in the Summer/Fall of 2019. She is preparing a grant application with the Sharon Cultural Council, the deadline for which is October 15, 2015.

This is an event where musicians and other artists perform on private porches, yards or driveways, generally acoustically so that noise shouldn't be an issue, for an afternoon of music. Audiences stroll from street to street, taking in the local sounds. Porchfest originated in Ithaca, New York in 2007. There are currently 12 Porchfests in Massachusetts: Somerville, Plum Island, Newton, Arlington, Brookline, Fenway, Quincy, Jamaica Plain, Belmont, Hull, Roslindale and Milton. There are 118 around the country.

The goal of Sharon Porchfest, in addition to getting the community out walking, is to create a day of public celebration, foster a broader sense of cohesion and shared interest, showcase the diversity of Town, and showcase Sharon as a town that values creativity and the arts.

The Board suggested that Ms. Davis get in touch with the Police Department as a courtesy as well as Linda Berger, Recreation Director, who may be a valuable resource or possible partner in an event such as this.

Public Hearing - Pole Relocation 127 Beach Street

MOTION: To open the Public Hearing for Pole Relocation at 127 Beach Street.
(Roach - Smith-Lee) 3-0 **PASSES**

Permission is requested by Verizon New England and NStar Electric Company dba Eversource Energy to erect and maintain poles and their respective wires and cables to be placed, together with anchors, guys and other sustaining and protecting fixtures as said Companies may deem necessary, in the public way or ways as specified:

BEACH STREET: Relocate one (1) jointly owned pole numbered T.28/E.28 to a point on the southeasterly side of Beach Street approximately one hundred thirty-two (132) feet northeasterly from the center line of Harding Street for the purpose of providing distribution of intelligence and telecommunications and for the transmission of low voltage electric current with the conditions outlined in their petition.

Mr. Ross Bilodeau of Verizon New England was in attendance to present this petition. This nature of this request is to accommodate a building project at 127 Beach Street. Mr. John McGowan, representing the contractor, indicated that the pole needs to be relocated so that utilities serving the back property can be pivoted. They are presently in the way of the new building. There is an urgent nature to the request as this is a pre-fabricated

home which is scheduled to be set late October. It is not expected that guy wires would be necessary. Mr. Gary Bluestein of 123 Beach Street has a concern that the pole seems to be set further into the public way. The road is very narrow and it seems that there may have been an opportunity to move the pole back a little in the interest of motorist safety. Mr. Bilodeau explained that he hasn't visited the site prior to this meeting and moving the pole could likely require guy lines. As illustrated on the map, it does appear that the pole has been moved back. Mr. Bluestein explained that it was not his intent to disrupt any deadlines or timelines. The Board agreed to request that Verizon make their best effort to accommodate a change if possible.

MOTION: To close the Public Hearing for Pole Relocation at 127 Beach Street.
(Heitin – Smith-Lee) 3-0 **PASSES**

MOTION: To approve the pole relocation with the understanding that Verizon will make their best effort to relocate the pole as far from the roadway as possible at 127 Beach Street.
(Roach – Smith-Lee) 3-0 **PASSES**

Town Hall Project Update

Assistant to the Town Administrator Lauren Barnes provided the Board with the activity update of the new Town Hall project. Ms. Barnes shared the following information with the Board:

- Standing Building Committee approved the maximum construction cost of \$9.8 million for the project which includes a cupola.
- Temporary tie-in of the septic will happen on Friday.
- Monday, the concrete footings will be placed
- Rebar will be delivered to the site on Wednesday.
- Friday, the concrete footings will be poured.
- Walkways have been added for additional egress.
- Construction meetings are held weekly.
- The project is on schedule and is moving along well.

Consent Calendar

- I. Vote to approve regular session minutes of September 13, 2018
- II. Vote to approve the following banner request:
 - a. Veteran's Day Ceremony Banner, November 1-12, 2018 1st position.
- III. Vote to approve and execute the Intermunicipal Agreement by and between the Towns of Foxborough and Sharon for Municipal Sewer Service

MOTION: To approve the October 2, 2018 consent calendar
(Roach – Smith-Lee) 3-0 **PASSES**

Town Administrator's Report

The Town Administrator reported the following:

- The Capital Outlay process is starting this month. Departments should submit their requests no later than next week.

- He has been working with Town Counsel and Counsel for the hotel in Walpole regarding the Inter-Municipal Agreement specifically how division of inspectional services and property tax assessment distribution will be handled.
- October 19 will be Staff Development Day. Anniversary awards will be presented around 11:30 if any member of the Board is available to assist with presentations.
- He met with the Transportation Advisory Committee on Thursday. They received and are reviewing the Engineer's recommendation for parking. They have ideas that they would like to have explored. They should be in within a month or so to make a presentation.
- Letters have gone out for expiring terms for Boards and Committees. Any vacancies will be advertised. Reappointment recommendations should be ready in early November.
- November 13 Board Meeting will see the tax recap and also set tax rate.
- Auditors have started working and draft Free Cash calculation has been forwarded to the Department of Revenue.
- The Board would like to see a list of Advisory Committees so that they can request updates from a few.

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

Chairman Heitin would like to make residents aware that there could be delays on South Main Street as preparations are made for paving of Old Post Road.

Executive Session

MOTION: To enter into Executive Session at 8:22 p.m. for the purposes of discussing strategy with respect to pending litigation with regard to real property – Mountain Street, LLC v. Sharon Zoning Board of Appeals Housing Appeals Court Docket # 04-01; Leslie Myatt, et al. v. Board of Appeals of the Town of Sharon and Mountain Street, LLC Norfolk Superior Court Civil Action No.: 0382CV02377. The Board will not return to open session. Discussion of this item in open session may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position (Heitin - Roach) 3-0 **PASSES**

Roll Call Vote

Heitin: Aye
Roach: Aye
Smith-Lee: Aye

Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn at 8:49 p.m.
(Heitin - Roach) 3-0 **PASSES**

Roll Call Vote

Heitin: Aye
Roach: Aye
Smith-Lee: Aye

List of Documents

- Sharon Library Foundation Fundraising Materials
- Library Building Existing Condition Reports
- Draft Proposal and Cultural Council Application
- Pole Relocation Memo from Peter O'Cain, Town Engineer

- Supporting Documents for Petition & Order
- Town Hall Project Weekly Updates
- September 13, 2018 Minutes
- Veteran's Day Ceremony Banner Request
- Intermunicipal Agreement between Towns of Foxborough and Sharon
- Miscellaneous Correspondence