

MINUTES
SHARON SELECT BOARD
March 26, 2024

The meeting of the Sharon Select Board was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Kiana Pierre-Louis remotely via Zoom. Select Board members Emily Smith-Lee and Hanna Switekowski were in attendance as was Town Administrator Frederic E. Turkington, Jr. and Assistant Town Administrator, Lauren Barnes. The meeting commenced with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public comment period

Lauren Grasso of the Sharon Pride Steering Committee wished to introduce herself. The Sharon Pride Steering Committee has two requests pending on the consent calendar this evening.

Katherine Goyette read a statement at the request of her spouse, Matthew, who is active in the military and currently deployed. The statement sought Select Board support for and approval of the VFW liquor license amendment which is necessary for the continued operation of the club. The VFW offers vital support to the veterans of the community.

Georgeann Lewis indicated her support for the citizens' petition for recall.

Citizens' petition article for recall

Mr. Turkington began the discussion by explaining that a citizens' petition was received relative to the subject of recall. The Board also received a proposal by the Governance Study Committee based on their research on the topic of recall. It was suggested that perhaps an agreement could be reached between the petitioner and the Governance Study Committee so as not to have dueling articles on the Town Meeting warrant that may confuse voters. Ms. Crosby has been open to making friendly amendments based on conversations with the Governance Study Committee and may continue further based on a scheduled discussion with Town Clerk Mark Hogan on April 1. The Finance Committee discussed this item last evening and endorsed the concept of recall but has withheld an official vote until Judy can meet with Mark and identify the amendments. It is anticipated that the Finance Committee may endorse the proposed article during the warrant hearing on May 1.

Ms. Judy Crosby was given the opportunity to explain the details of the citizens' petition she submitted for the May Annual Town Meeting. She wished to encourage the Select Board to support the article and would also like to share the thoughts on reasoning behind some of the areas covered in the article. The Governance Study Committee feels very strongly that there should be what they call "guardrails" around the subject of recall. Their concerns are based largely on worry of inappropriate use by the citizenry. Judy expressed her faith in resident voters to approach recall mindfully and with appropriate cause.

The discussion provided an opportunity for Ms. Crosby and the Board to clarify their positions and objectives with the text of the article. The Board thanked Judy for taking the time to meet with the Board this evening though she was enjoying vacation with her family. The Board agreed to support this similar to how Finance Committee handled this article at their meeting last night.

MOTION: To support the concept of recall as a general agreement with the citizens' petition but will await final language that is being worked out on procedural issues.
(Switekowski– Smith-Lee)

Switekowski: AYE
Smith-Lee: ABSTAIN
Pierre-Louis: AYE
3-0 **PASSES**

Full-time police officer

The Select Board was introduced to Mr. Joseph Gareri. Chief Coffey explained that he recommends Mr. Gareri be hired for the position of full-time Police Officer in the Town of Sharon. Joseph is 27 years old and grew up in Norwood, graduating from Norwood High School. Joseph attended Roger Williams University where he obtained his bachelor's degree in criminal justice with a minor in psychology.

Joseph currently works as a Corrections Officer for the Norfolk County Sheriff's Department in Dedham. Prior to becoming a Corrections Officer, Joseph worked as a Security Representative at the Perkins School for the Blind, as well as Newman Associates, LLC as an assistant. An extensive background check was conducted, and all of the people contacted spoke very highly of Joseph.

Joseph did very well during the interview process and on the pre-entrance fitness test. He is a very professional man, who has added patience for those with disabilities. His references and coworkers are confident he will make an excellent Police Officer.

MOTION: To appoint Joseph Gareri to the position of full-time police officer.
(Smith-Lee – Switekowski)

Switekowski: AYE
Smith-Lee: AYE
Pierre-Louis: AYE
3-0 **PASSES**

Liquor license amendments for VFW Arthur I. Boyden Post 7238

Ms. Erin MacIsaac advised that the former manager of the club had passed away and this application is necessary for continued operation of the club's liquor license. She explained that the club officers have also been updated. It was confirmed that a complete application package has been received and will be forwarded on to the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission if approved.

MOTION: To approve the Change of Manager and Change of Officers liquor license application for VFW Arthur I. Boyden Post 7238.
(Switekowski– Smith-Lee)

Switekowski: AYE
Smith-Lee: AYE
Pierre-Louis: AYE
3-0 **PASSES**

Update by Sharon Cultural Council

Mr. Aaron Glick of the Sharon Cultural Council. Mr. Glick shared a presentation with the Board which highlighted the many projects that were funded or partially funded through Grants offered by Sharon Cultural Council. Mr. Glick thanked the Board for their support through matching funds. He explained that the Cultural Council was able to award 25% more funds over 2023 to support local art and cultural initiatives due to the municipal match.

Although Mr. Glick's presentation was shortened due to technological or connectivity issues, the Board appreciated the update he was able to provide. The conversation continued, however, to discuss potential options for updating the "Welcome to Sharon" signs. The Board wished to be respectful of the organizations that may have donated funds or materials for the original Eagle Scout project through which the signs were created and installed, thus careful planning would be needed when considering their replacement. In addition, possible

alternatives were discussed for the previously planned “Sharon” mural, such as the now vacant space next to Sharon Town Hall.

The Board thanked Mr. Glick and the Sharon Cultural Council for this update as well as for the work they do for the community.

Positions on Town Meeting articles

Mr. Turkington and Ms. Barnes reviewed the remainder of the agenda topics for which the Select Board should vote their position.

Article #	Agenda Topic	Sponsor	Position
8	Compensation of Elected Officials	Finance Committee	3-0 Support
9	Capital Outlay	Select Board	3-0 Support
10	Fiscal Year 2025 Budget	Finance Committee	3-0 Support
11	Community Preservation Act Annual Funding and Projects	Community Preservation Committee	3-0 Support
14	Citizen Petition to Provide for Recall of Elected Officials	Judy Crosby and others	2-0 Support (Smith-Lee abstained)
15	Amend General By-Laws to Establish Procedure to Remove Appointed Officials	Select Board	3-0 Support
18	Authorize Select Board to Enter into Lease Agreements for Provision of Septic and Parking on Town Property on High Street	Select Board	3-0 Support
19	Amend Zoning By-Law to Comply with MBTA Multi-Family Zoning District Law (Lease/Septic High Street)	Planning Board	3-0 Support
20	Amend Zoning By-Law - Modifications to Business District A	Planning Board	3-0 Support
21	Citizen Petition - Amend General By-Law to Provide for an Artificial Turf Field Moratorium	Debbie Tatro and others	3-0 Support
22	Amend General By-Law to add Opt-In Specialized Stretch Code	Select Board	3-0 Support

MOTION: To support articles as discussed.
(Smith-Lee – Switekowski)

Switekowski: AYE
 Smith-Lee: AYE
 Pierre-Louis: AYE
 3-0 **PASSES**

Consent calendar

- I. Vote to approve the following minutes:
 - a. February 7, 2024 – open session
 - b. February 27, 2024 – open session
 - c. February 29, 2024 – open session
 - d. February 29, 2024 – open session with Planning Board, Finance Committee
- II. Vote to approve the following banner request/requests:
 - a. Sharon Celebrates Pride – June 3-10, 2024 in 1st position
- III. Vote to approve display of the Progress Pride flag on the Town Hall façade
- IV. Vote to approve the following block party request:
 - a. South Pleasant Street between Chestnut and Walnut Streets on Monday, May 27, 2024 from 12 noon until 10pm
- V. Vote to approve the following renewal application for ice cream vending through March 31, 2025
 - a. Sara Kalinsky of Sweet Sixteen Ice Cream
- VI. Vote to appoint Adara Meyers to the Sharon Cultural Council for a three-year term expiring June 30, 2027

MOTION: To approve the consent calendar.
(Smith-Lee – Switekowski)

Switekowski: AYE

Smith-Lee: AYE

Pierre-Louis: AYE

3-0 **PASSES**

Report of the Town Administrator

Mr. Turkington provided an update on the status of the Annual Town Meeting warrant which will be delivered to residents during April vacation. The Warrant hearing will take place in-person in the second-floor meeting room at Sharon Town Hall at 6:30 pm on May 1. Annual Town Meeting will be at 7pm on Monday, May 6 at Sharon High School.

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

Vote to approve a one-day liquor license for Castle Island Brewing event to be held at Ward's Berry Farm on April 7, 2024 from 12 noon to 6pm

Vote to approve Sharon Lions Club semi-annual White Cane Day on Saturday, April 27 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm in Post Office Square

MOTION: To approve the agenda supplement as discussed.
(Smith-Lee – Switekowski)

Switekowski: AYE

Smith-Lee: AYE

Pierre-Louis: AYE

3-0 **PASSES**

Adjourn

MOTION: To adjourn at 8:56 pm.
(Switlekowski– Smith-Lee)

Switlekowski: AYE

Smith-Lee: AYE

Pierre-Louis: AYE

3-0 **PASSES**

List of Documents

- Recommendation
- Biography
- Application (2)
- List of articles
- Minutes
- Banner request form
- Block party request form
- Request letter