

SHARON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Draft until approved at the next regular meeting

A regular meeting of the Sharon BOS was held on June 23, 2020 at 5:30PM at the Town Hall. Present were the three Selectmen, Betsy Hall, Michele Pastre, Linda Amerighi, Miriam Jones, reporter Hawken, Brent Prindle taping for Channel 6 and the secretary.

First Selectman Colley called the meeting to order at 5:30.

Mr. Flanagan made a motion to adopt the agenda as written, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor.

If an individual wishes to speak on an agenda item when the Board gets to it, just let Mr. Colley know and you will be allowed to speak.

A correction needed to be made to the June 9, 2020 minutes – insert the date. Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the 6/9/20 minutes as amended and the 6/15/20 minutes as written, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor.

Betsy Hall was present to give the Board an update on the Green Rehabilitation Project. At the beginning of the project, the cost estimate was \$496,000. With the awarding of the contract to R.A.R. Excavating, LLC, this company was skilled, efficient, kept a neat job site and handled any problems which arose easily. The final total for the project was \$390,201.19 – UNDER budget of \$105,798.81 which is a savings of just over 21% which is rare. If any additional seeding needs to be done Stephen Wasley, the Green Maintainer, will be handling that as well as watering what has been seeded. It was emphasized that Mr. Wasley helped greatly with this project and does a great job on the Green. The Green Committee did a great job overall with this project. Mrs. Hall thanked the BOS, the BOF and the Town for allowing this project to happen.

Linda Amerighi, Town Clerk, was present to discuss the request she submitted to the Board for consideration of an expenditure of approximately \$18,000 for imaging and re-indexing land record volumes 91 back to volume 71. She had hoped that the Sharon taxpayer who contacted her and requested that the town provide the proper requirement for land record researches which is 40 years be available on line be present at this meeting to discuss the issue. Unfortunately, they were not. She is not 100% sure that the Town should spend this amount of money all at once as with her Historic Preservation Grant, she gets done a few volumes at a time. She has applied for a \$5500 State grant but it is not known if it will be awarded. She sees the necessity for having the volumes on line but we are not the only town in this situation. She explained how she has been handling requests from Title Searchers: they call or email her with the names of the individuals they are working on, she makes a copy of the indexes, scans them, emails them and then the title searcher gets back to her with the volume & pages that they want. She then scans and email the pages and lets the individual know the amount of money to send her – this is on the honor system right now. She has had maybe 5 requests. Her office has been busier than ever and even though this is added work, it has been doable. She gets the documents back to the individuals normally the same day and feels what she is doing is sufficient for the time being. She would prefer that the Board table any decision until the individual who made the request come in person to explain why they feel this project should be done. The Board thanked Ms. Amerighi for her research and follow through on the taxpayer's request. The Board will put this on the next agenda and Ms. Amerighi will contact the individual to let them know of the next meeting.

There are a number of items that need to go to a Town Meeting for consideration/approval. Most of the items pertain to the next fiscal year. The draft Notice was reviewed. After discussing the challenges in having a meeting were discussed, Mr. Flanagan made a motion to hold a Special Town Meeting on Thursday, July 16, 2020 at 6:30PM at the Town Hall, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor.

There are some individuals whose terms expire. Mr. Colley read the list and he has checked with them all and they are willing to continue:

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Elizabeth M. Hall, Regular member, term to expire June 30, 2025

Theo Coulombe, Alternate member, term to expire June 30, 2023

SEWER & WATER COMMISSION

Stephen J. Szalewicz, Regular member, term to expire June 30, 2025

INLAND WETLANDS & WATER COURSES COMMISSION

Harvey W. Hayden, Regular member, term to expire June 30, 2025

Sharon M. Tingley, Regular member, term to expire June 30, 2025

The process for the filing of vacancies was discussed and it was noted that when there are vacancies, it is noted in the Annual Report and on the Town Website. There are also “forms of interest” on the Website for individuals to complete and submit. Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the re-appointments as outlined, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor.

The Board discussed the DRAFT revision to the Town Highway Construction Ordinance. It was explained that this revision has been in the works for a number of years. It brings the requirements for the construction in conformity with the Subdivision Regulations. The Draft noted “Any subdivision application in which an unpaved street is proposed will be summarily disapproved.” This needs to be deleted as this is under the jurisdiction of the P & Z Commission and they do allow gravel roads. Also the Right-of-Way width was recommended by the P & Z Commission’s engineer. A clean Draft will be done for the next meeting so that it can go before the Town for consideration/adoption.

Community Update:

The Town Hall opening to the public will be the next stage. The Building/Land Use Office and the Social Service Office are open by appointment. The Town Clerk would like to open by appointment when all the plexi-glass is in place. Masks and hand sanitizer is available and needs to be used. Mr. Colley is working on getting all Town and Road Crew employees tested for anti-bodies as well as the EMS personnel. This will be done prior to opening further. Everyone will work with CDC protocols.

Linda Amerighi explained how the State is handling a “safe voting process” for the August primary and possibly the November election. The State is mailing applications for absentee ballots to all eligible voters. Those who do not feel comfortable voting in person, should fill-out the application, return it in envelope provided and the ballot will be mailed.

Why the numbers for COVID-19 cases change every day is unknown. The numbers are available at ct.gov. The State Health Department says anyone testing positive is staying home.

There is a group of about 50 individuals meeting weekly to discuss what happens moving forward with schooling. Most things will depend on the State requirements and every state is handling this differently.

Information and forms for obtaining Beach, Boating and Transfer Station stickers is on the Website and forms are available by the back door of the Town hall. There is a drop-box to leave the completed forms, the money and a stamped self-addressed envelope. We are doing the best we can to navigate the situation.

The Beach opening is going well. How to make the sticker process easier for all will be worked on in the future.

Surdan Mountain and Smith Hill Road have been paved by the Road Crew with the assistance of the Salisbury Road Crew and with the usage of local equipment. The chip sealing projects will start next week.

For years the beavers have caused problems by plugging culverts which results in washing out some roads as they make the environment they want. Beaver Solutions has created the Keystone Fence which are cages that are placed in the water and keep the beavers away from the culverts. We received two grants to cover the cost and have placed two fences: one on West Cornwall Road by Roy's Swamp and on West Woods Road #2.

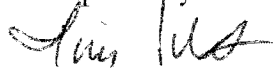
The State will be paving Rt. 7 from Cornwall Bridge to Canaan starting the beginning of July.

Miriam Jones, our Social Service Agent, announced that on Friday, June 27, 2020 from 8am to 11am at the high school there will be packaged fresh fruits and vegetables handed out through a grant from Friendly Hands Food Bank in Torrington in conjunction with Farms to Families Free Produce. There are limited number of boxes – 780.

Operation Fuel will have fuel assistance applications on line for middle income households. Low income households will have to go through Ms. Jones.

With nothing further, Mr. Jones made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Flanagan, with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:28.

Respectfully submitted,



Tina Pitcher, Town Secretary

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SHARON TOWN CLERK

SHARON GREEN COMMITTEE

Report to The Board of Selectmen and The Board of Finance on the Green project

The need to re-grade the Green became apparent around 2012. The edges of the Green were packed down from cars parking half off the street, the paved edge of Upper Main was exposed and crumbling, and storm run-off from the hillside above Upper Main was badly eroding the surface. In the 2012/2013 town budget, a \$10,000 line item was added to create a repair fund for the Green. In the fall of 2015, a study by Richard Calkins, P.E. was commissioned. Rich concluded that it was essential that the storm run-off be diverted from the Green. He recommended that new drainage be installed on Upper Main and that curbing be placed along the Green's edge prior to the re-grading. His estimate for the total job was \$496,000. This estimate was corroborated by Patrick Hackett, P.E.

The Board of Selectmen, the Board of Finance, and a Town Meeting all approved providing the funds.

R.A.R. Excavating, LLC was awarded the contract. The company was skilled, efficient, kept a neat job site and handled any problems which arose easily. The majority of the work was completed in the summer of 2019. In the spring of 2020, the company returned to add top soil to needed areas and re-seed those sections. The final bill from R.A.R. has been paid and the total for the whole project came to \$390201.19, for a savings of \$105798.81. It is rare for a project of this size to come in under budget. A savings of just over 21% is rarer still. The Town of Sharon can be proud of its restored centerpiece, The Green.