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*By Linda Amerighi at 2:30 pm, Oct 28, 2021*

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

A regular meeting of the Sharon BOS was held on October 26, 2021 at 5:30PM at the Town Hall. Present were the three Selectmen, Chris Clow, Roger Liddell, Jill Drew, Barbara & Brent Prindle, Jim Krissel, Maria Grace, Mr. & Mrs. Calabrese, Mr. & Mrs. Kallman, Elizabeth Frost, Jim Gillespie, Marie Corsini, Ted Grabarz, three other River/Dawn Hill Road residents, Meghan Flanagan, reporters Hawken & Hochswender and the secretary.

First Selectman Colley called the meeting to order at 5:31.

Change in order on the agenda, move Item #9 up below Item #6 and add request to Use Sharon Green (13a). Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor.

If anyone wishes to speak on an agenda item when the Board gets there, just let Mr. Colley know. Mr. Gillespie stated that a culvert washed out on Herb Road in August and it has not yet been repaired – when will this be done? He is worried about the road for the winter. There is a hole – can this be filled with rip rap? Mr. Colley will speak to the Road Foreman.

The Board only had the minutes of 10/12/21 to approve. The ones for 10/21/21 have not yet been done. One correction to the 10/12/21 minutes – page 2, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph, 6<sup>th</sup> line, add “existing” after “already”. Mr. Jones made a motion to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor.

Jill Drew, Co-Chair of the ARPA Committee, was present to give the Board an update on this Committee. They have 2 applications and 1 informal request that they are looking at. The Committee would like to set a deadline for initial funding applications for Jan. 15, 2022. The information cards and survey should be available by the end of the week. This should give residents a chance to get information prior to the community meeting that the Committee is planning to be Dec. 1, 2021 at 6:30PM. At this meeting anyone can ask any questions they would like. Then after this meeting, residents would have a little over a month to decide if they are eligible to submit an application for funds. The deadline for the first report to be filed with the State has been extended to April 30, 2022. It was the consensus of the BOS that setting the deadline for applications for Jan. 15, 2022 makes sense.

Mr. Flanagan has requested that Item #6 – dumping in Town right-of-way – be added to the agenda. He commented that the situation on River Road was addressed and a certified letter has been sent. There is a similar situation, which was explained, at the corner of Gavel Cabin and White Hollow Road. He recommended that the Road Foreman or Mr. Colley measure to see if the dumping is in the right-of-way and if they are, then Mr. Colley should proceed with sending a certified letter to the property owner, stating the Ordinance violation along with a copy of the Ordinance. This situation is a safety concern for individuals pulling out of Gavel Cabin Road and should be addressed sooner rather than later. Mr. Colley will look into this and if applicable, send a certified letter.

With residents of River Road, Dawn Hill and representatives of the Sharon Land Trust present, Mr. Colley reviewed the history of the situation in this area. Traffic, speeding and parking in this area has been an issue for a number of years and has only exacerbated with COVID. The Board is welcome to find common ground with a solution for all. The residents are concerned with the volume of traffic, speeding

and parking which has an impact on the safety of those living in this area. With the potentially new public access and recreational trail on private property on Dawn Hill with a conservation easement, the residents are concerned that this will draw more traffic to this area. The residents had asked to see, if available, a Management Plan for this new area. Chris Clow, of the Sharon Land Trust, commented that all the conservation easements of the Land Trust have seen a dramatic increase in use and he understands the concerns of the residents. He explained that the new area contains a conservation easement and that the Land Trust will not own the property. They have employees who manage and monitor their easements. There is enforcement taken on any issues. He explained where the new private right-of-way and access will be and that the dirt parking area for two cars on the conservation land will be at the end of the trail. If this area is used more than anticipated, they do have options. The residents understood that if public funds are used, there has to be public access for recreational uses. They were all concerned that they were not taken into consideration or notified of this potential easement. River Road resident Ted Grabarz commented that he feels more information is needed so that everyone has a better understanding of the ramifications of this easement. Gerry Calabrese expressed that local issues need to be addressed and that the residents should be included in the process. Dan Kallman commented that the “forever concerns” should be put in some type of legal form for the protection of the neighbors for all to see. Mr. Flanagan commented that the residents should discuss their concerns with the Planning and Zoning Commission. Mr. Jones commented that there should be a way that when future decisions are made that impacts an area, that all neighbors are notified. Mr. Liddell commented that with regards to the Sharon Land Trust, which is a private organization, private landowners ask for confidentiality. Hopefully all can work together to address the resident’s issues. The BOS appreciated everyone attending this meeting.

Meghan Flanagan reviewed with the Board her correspondence regarding a technology review at the Town Hall. As part of the review, the Board is testing a new system tonight of an online video conferencing system. Mr. Jones is going to look into acoustic panels for the Chapin Meeting Room. A preliminary review of the technology uncovered some vulnerabilities that should be addressed. A disaster recovery plan should be made. As cybersecurity is a big concern, it was recommended that Mr. Colley contact Ron Ford, of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, to see what can and should be done. An audit of our current system should be done. Funding for any needs could possibly be obtained through the ARPA funds and the budget. Perhaps a committee of volunteers could be formed to assist with this whole technology upgrade need. The Board thanked Mrs. Flanagan for her work on this issue – current and future.

The Affordable Housing Plan Steering Committee needs to be formed. It is recommended to include in this Committee a local realtor as well as other Board/Commission members. Mr. Flanagan made a motion that Selectman Dale Jones, Patricia Whelan of the Sharon Housing Authority and Larry Moskowitz of the Planning and Zoning Commission, be the initial members for the Sharon Housing Plan Steering Committee, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor. Meetings of this group with Jocelyn Ayer of COG will most likely via ZOOM.

Johannes Van Der Tuin has submitted a letter requesting appointment to the Conservation Commission. He has attended some meetings and the Commission has also requested this appointment. Mr. Jones made a motion to appoint Johannes Van Der Tuin to the Conservation Commission with a term expiring June 30, 2026, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor.

The Board needs to set their 2022 meeting schedule. Upon reviewing a draft schedule, Mr. Flanagan made a motion that the meetings be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 3PM and the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each

month at 5:30Pm except for November when the only meeting will be November 9<sup>th</sup> and the only meeting in December will be December 13<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor.

A request has been received from the Sharon Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary for permission to place the "Memory Tree" in the lobby of the Town Hall that faces Main Street for their fundraiser. The Tree would be up from November 29<sup>th</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Jones made a motion to grant the request, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor.

The Tax Collector has submitted a tax refund request for VW Credit Leasing in the amount of \$140.29. Mr. Flanagan made a motion to grant the request to refund the MV tax refund, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor.

An application for Use of the Sharon Green for Events has been received from Save Sharon Hospital. They are planning a gathering on the Green with speakers for November 6, 2021. No time is mentioned on the Application but Mr. Colley believes it to be 11AM. A Certificate of Insurance has been submitted. Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the application with the time to be determined, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor. (a follow-up phone call Wednesday, the time is 3PM)

Community Update:

The Town Hall Offices will be closed Election Day.

Sharon Hospital will be holding meetings at the Town Hall on Nov. 5 with public officials and then on Nov. 9 with the public. Attendance is limited to a total of 18 but the meeting will also be via ZOOM.

The Special Town Meeting concerning the change of the wording for the promissory note of the Sharon Housing Authority is tomorrow, Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> at 3:30PM at Town Hall.

The Safety Officers are all in place for Halloween – Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>.

The required letters pertaining to the Hilltop Road speed humps have gone out. Responses are due back by November 5, 2021.

With nothing further, Mr. Jones made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Pitcher, Town Secretary