

**Sharon Green Committee Meeting
Minutes
Monday, January 11, 2021**

Present: Betsy Hall, Linda Amerighi, Tom Casey, Eric Golden, Stephen Wasley, Marlene Woodman

Guest: Casey Flanagan, Second Selectman

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Betsy Hall called the Sharon Green Committee Meeting to Order at 4:00 P.M.

2. Approval of Minutes of September 14, 2020

The Minutes of said date stand Approved.

3. Old Business

A. Spring Restoration Work

The Sharon Green Committee agreed that Sharon Lawn and Landscape should be directed to move forward at the appropriate time to fertilize the Green at a cost of \$1,000.

Stephen Wasley agreed to do additional seeding that might be needed.

B. Discussion of Draft Application for Use of Green

On a motion made by Linda Amerighi and seconded by Tom Casey, the Green Committee Unanimously Approved moving this item to the end of the meeting to be discussed with another pertinent item, draft Application for Use of Green.

C. Benches

Stephen Wasley reported that the benches have been moved to the Town Garage. In the spring, weather permitting, he will put them back on the Green.

4. New Business

A. Screen Electrical Meters

Betsy Hall noted that there are currently two electrical meters on panels; one located by the old Christmas tree and the other near the Library. She wanted the Committee to consider whether the meter panels look unsightly and if low growing shrubs should be planted to make the panels more presentable. Once the old Christmas tree is removed, that panel will be more obvious.

The Committee discussed options. i.e., planting low growing shrubs or painting the meter panels. The panel located near the Library is not as noticeable as the one by the old Christmas tree. The Committee decided at this point to have the panels painted in a dark green. Stephen Wasley agreed he would do this.

On a motion made by Linda Amerighi and seconded by Tom Casey, the Sharon Green Committee Unanimously Voted to Approve Stephen Wasley painting the electrical panels a deep forest green to blend in with the surrounding vegetation.

B. Granite Curbing

Betsy Hall reported that the State of Connecticut is scheduled (although no definitive date has been set) to mill and pave the main road where granite curbing was not installed. There is \$105,000 left from the curbing project and the Committee could potentially use those funds for completing granite curbing along the main road. The Green Committee's request would need to go before the Board of Selectmen and then to a Town Meeting.

The Committee discussed several options. First and foremost, is the need to determine a timeline for the State's paving of the road. Additionally, the Committee discussed whether we should also obtain quotes for granite curbing outside of Town Hall. It was pointed out that there is curbing (black stone) that is now covered over (sunk) from the years of paving. The area in front of Town Hall would fall under the Board of Selectmen's purview, but the Committee could get an estimate for the Board of Selectmen to consider.

Casey Flanagan reported that the Town is waiting to hear about the State Grant for sidewalks. If we receive that Grant, it might be best to hold off installing granite curbing in that area until the sidewalks are completed.

Tom Casey agreed to contact the State DOT to find out when the road might be paved.

Betsy Hall will contact R and R to get an estimate for curbing along the main road.

Both items will be discussed further at the February 8, 2021 meeting when we have more information.

C. Estimate of Addition to Garage

Stephen Wasley presented pictures of the garage (near the Firehouse) used to house all the Green equipment; noting that the space is much too small for all the equipment and the winter sand, etc. He reported that he has received quotes for laying concrete for a 24x24 addition which would double the size of the current garage. Concrete estimate is \$20,000 and the erection of a building about \$35,000.

The Committee discussed the following:

- Pros/cons for tearing down the existing building and erecting a new one,
- Consideration towards the limited parking in that area and how best to erect a new building, and
- Consider costs for constructing a steel building, as opposed to stick.

The Committee agreed that there would not be enough time to present a proposal for this coming year's Budget; but all agreed that there needs to be a new or additional structure erected.

Stephen Wasley noted that this is not an urgent request, but something that the Committee needs to address and begin planning. The Committee agreed that Stephen Wasley should get additional quotes and that we should have an architect provide advice. Tom Casey reported that this building is not in the Historic District.

5. FY2022 Budget

Betsy Hall presented the 2021 Budget Line Items for the Committee's deliberation for FY2022; noting that the Board of Selectmen is requesting recommendations in early February 2021.

The Committee discussed each line item, agreeing that the Sharon Green Committee's recommendations to the Board of Selectmen remain the same as the FY2021 Budget except for *Tree Decorations (i)*. Prior to finalizing the FY2022 Budget recommendations, Betsy Hall will gather additional information from the Sharon Preservation as to expected costs for next year for tree decorations. If the old Christmas tree is removed, the cost to decorate the new Christmas tree will be far less – around \$1,500 if that. That cost is split with the Sharon Preservation. Betsy Hall will report back at the February Sharon Green meeting.

6. Application for Use of the Sharon Green and Complaint re: Creche and Menorah

Linda Amerighi reported that both she and Marlene Woodman received a complaint about the Creche and Menorah being placed on the Sharon Green. The individual who called to complain has done so for several years. Both Linda and Marlene explained to the individual that the Town of Sharon does not own the entire Green and much of it is under the purview of the State of Connecticut. Linda Amerighi had a long conversation with the individual and finally referred her to the State.

A representative from the State called Linda after he received the complaint. He recommended that we speak with the Town Attorney about this complaint and the wording for the Application for Use of the Sharon Green.

Betsy Hall noted that this draft application was put forth to prevent activities from damaging the Green and that in case of damage we need to have a person responsible.

After discussions, the Committee agreed that the draft Application should state: *For Events*, as the Creche and Menorah are not part of public events that could cause damage to the Green. No one on the Committee is knowledgeable about which entity gives authorization to place the Creche, the Menorah and other statuettes on the Green. Additionally, it was agreed that Betsy Hall would have a conversation with First Selectman Brent Colley about this matter and further ask that the draft Application be reviewed by the Town Attorney.

7. Other Business

Having no further Business, on a motion made by Linda Amerighi and seconded by Marlene Woodman, the Sharon Green Committee Adjourned at 5:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlene Woodman