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*By Linda Amerighi at 11:22 am, Aug 26, 2021*

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

A regular meeting of the Sharon BOS was held on August 24, 2021 at 5:30PM In-person and via ZOOM at the Town Hall. Present were the three Selectmen, Chris Clow, Barbara & Brent Prindle, Channel 6, reporter Hawken and the secretary.

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

Additions to the agenda: Silly Putty Charitable Trust (8a) and Tax Refund (8b). Mr. Flanagan made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor.

If anyone wishes to speak on an agenda item when the Board gets there, just let Mr. Colley know.

Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the minutes of July 27, 2021 & August 6, 2021 as submitted, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor.

Chris Clow was present on behalf of the Sharon Land Trust's request for a letter of support for the preservation of 81 acres on Millerton Road through an Open Space Grant from the CT DEEP. The property in question belongs currently to Lionel Goldfrank and would be purchased to preserve the large scenic forested block while providing public access to its trails. The parcel is directly adjacent the existing Goodbody Preserve and von Ahn property that the Land Trust is in the process of acquiring. Along with additional conservation easements held by the Land Trust, this protected block extends to the shores of Mudge Pond. On the Millerton Road side, the property drains to Indian Lake, thus its preservation helps to buffer and protect both water bodies. A trail would be created linking this parcel to the Goodbody Preserve Trail. The walking /hiking trails would adjoin existing trails so no new parking area/access would be need hence not disturbing any neighbors. The Land Trust keeps affordable housing in mind when looking at a property. There is only one possible housing location but Mr. Goldfrank is stipulating that nothing can be built there. The rest of the property is forest and to steep – not good for housing. The Board liked the idea of the contiguous parcels and preserving non-buildable land. Also, this would give an opportunity for sportsmen (hunters) to use this property. The Land Trust has asked the hunters to post when they are hunting in an area so that hikers are made aware of their presence. With all questions answered, Mr. Jones made a motion that the BOS submits a letter of support to the Sharon Land Trust in submitting an application to the CT DEEP for an Open Space Grant to purchase the property of Lionel Goldfrank, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor.

Stanley MacMillan, Building Official/Fire Marshal, has submitted a request that the unexpended balance in his budget (\$5,448.36) for the 2020-2021 fiscal year be placed in the Equipment Account to be used for a future purchase of a new vehicle for his office. The breakdown of the lines was included in the request. This is the typical request of this Office in order to build a balance of a future purchase. Mr. Flanagan made a motion to approve the request to the Board of Finance as requested, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor.

The BOS's request to the Board of Finance regarding the June 30, 2021 budget transfers totaling \$43,913.19 was reviewed and discussed. The Brush Removal transfer of \$6,400 in particular. The additional expense was due to a lot more intake of debris by residents as a result of the storms we have had. The Town did receive \$18,985 in disposal fees. This off-sets the expense. There was a discussion on monitoring this issue and maybe increasing disposal fees. What other towns or disposal sites charge should be looked into. The budget line item may need to be increased as well. It was pointed out that not all of this debris comes from private residents – there is Town debris brought in by the Road Crew. Mr. Jones made a motion that the BOS submits the request for the June 30, 2021 budget transfers to the Board of Finance for approval, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor.

The BOS's request to the Board of Finance regarding June 30, 2021 budget encumbered items totaling \$6,177.50 was reviewed and discussed. Mr. Flanagan made a motion that the BOS submits the request to the Board of Finance for approval, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor.

Treasurer Tina Pitcher explained to the Board the item added to the agenda concerning the Silly Putty Charitable Trust. In July she received a letter and an email from Wells Fargo Bank concerning the closure of this Trust, as they wanted various documents signed and sent back. At first she thought this was a scam but after contacting the bank and obtaining a copy of the Trust document, she found it to be legitimate. The Trust was set-up by Fergus Reid Buckley December 31, 1975 and if five years shall pass without any contributions to the Trust Estate, the Trustee shall have the discretion to terminate the Trust Estate by distributing one-half of assets to the Town of Camden, S. C. and one-half to the Town of Sharon, CT to be used for cultural, historical, recreational and educational purposes. With all the paperwork then signed and returned, the Town received two checks totaling \$49,193.69. As there were stipulations in the Trust as to how these monies were to be used, the bank was asked if the Town needed to report back to them how they were used. They responded that the funds are free of the Trust and are now the property of the Town and the only suggestion was to maintain a record of the use of the funds for auditing purposes. So keeping in mind the original intent of the use of these funds, a suggested use was the purchase of a vehicle that could be used by Parks & Recreation for their cultural and recreational trips. The Social Service Office may also use the vehicle for assistance in getting our residents to appointments. The idea of purchasing a vehicle had been brought before the BOS previously by Ms. Jones and Mr. Andrulis-Mette. There will need to be further discussion on this matter with the Board of Finance.

The Tax Collector has submitted a request for a tax refund - VCFS Auto Leasing in the amount of \$117.93. Mr. Flanagan made a motion to grant the request, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor.

#### Community Update:

This Saturday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, from 10AM to Noon, Mary O'Reilly, our Social Service Agent, will be at the Dog Pound handing out boxes of non-perishable food that she received from the Salvation Army. All are invited to get a box and receive a packet for fuel assistance. This will give the residents an opportunity to meet Mary.

The ARPA volunteer committee had their first meeting. They were thanked for coming forward to assist with the ideas of how to best utilize these funds.

The Broadband volunteer committee had a good overall meeting with potential RFP responders. The RFP's are to be submitted to the BOS by September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Colley is still trying to find a traffic engineer to look at our roads concerning traffic, speed humps and speeding in general who does not want to be paid between \$5,000 and \$7,000. The Board needs to keep working on these issues and do whatever they can to maintain safety for our residents.

For the next BOS meeting, hopefully three bids would have been received for engineering plans for the Town Hall Parking lot expansion. The plans do need to incorporate the installation of conduit. The project needs to be completed by August 2023 – STEAP requirement. The engineers have also been asked to look at our bridges so that a plan for either repair or replacement can be looked at.

As there is a break in the weather, the crack sealing of some roads can begin.

With nothing further, Mr. Jones made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:04.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Pitcher, Town Secretary