

Sharon Green Committee (SGC)
Meeting Postponed from Snow Date on Tuesday, February 13, 2024
to
Tuesday, February 20, 2024
4:00 P.M.

Sharon Town Hall
Minutes of Meeting
Draft until Approved at Next Meeting

Present: Tom Casey, Linda Amerighi, Betsy Hall, Stephen Wasley, Marlene Woodman
Ex-Officio: Scott Flint - Greenskeeper
Guest: First Selectman, Casey Flanagan

1. Call to Order

Tom Casey called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M.

2. Approval of Agenda

On a motion made and seconded, the SGC approved the agenda.

3. Approval of Minutes of January 8, 2024

Tom Casey noted that in the Minutes of January 8, 2024, the last sentence in the last paragraph of item #5 (FY 24-25 Budget) should be removed as the equipment requests are not eligible for LOCIP funding.

On a motion made and seconded, the SGC approved the Minutes of January 8, 2024 as amended.

4. Report from Scott Flint - Greenskeeper

Scott Flint reported that the cost for repairs to the SCAG mower for head gaskets is between \$1300 and \$1500. Those expenses can be taken out of this FY year's budget.

On a motion made and seconded, the SCG voted unanimously to have the SCAG mower repaired at a cost not to exceed \$1500 and that the expenditure be taken from the FY 23-24 Sharon Green Budget.

Scott Flint provided the estimates for the new tractor: John Deere with all the attachments \$45,000; a New Holland with all attachments \$40,000. Scott Flint noted that both tractors are made by the same company. Unfortunately, the old attachments from the other John Deere tractors are not interchangeable with New Holland tractor. The warranty is for 6 years or 2,000 hours. The attachments include: plow, broom, spreader and blower.

The SGC discussed the options and agreed that it would be best to purchase the John Deere tractor and keep the 14-year-old tractor in case of emergencies or if the new tractor needs servicing. The SGC agreed that we should have Jamie Reed, Road Foreman, sell the 24-year-old tractor and all attachments, as most are in poor condition. Stephen Wasley noted that the Town usually gets a good price for used equipment sold on the Government Website.

Linda Amerighi reported that sometime ago, she spoke with Doug Cahill, Chair of Sharon Board of Education, about the possibility of the SGC purchasing the Sharon Center School's tractor; as the school purchases new equipment every few years. This should be pursued.

Scott Flint noted that the Sharon Center School's tractor, even if we could purchase it, will not fit in the Sharon Green's barn.

Betsy Hall noted that on the equipment list that Stephen Wasley completed in 2022, prior to retiring as the Sharon Greenskeeper, the SGC informed the Board of Selectmen (BOS) and Board of Finance (BOF) of the equipment needs and years needed to purchase each item. It is documented that the SGC would need a new tractor in 2024 at an estimated cost of \$46,000.

The SGC agreed that a new tractor is needed and therefore request \$46,000 from the BOS and BOF. Additionally, there is \$4,000 unexpended funds in the FY 23-24 Budget's Equipment Line Item. The SGC could request that the BOF put those unexpended funds in the Sharon Green Committee's equipment replacement account.

On a motion made and seconded, the SGC voted unanimously to request that the Board of Finance (BOF) put the unexpended funds of \$4,000 (Line b, New Equipment) from the FY 23-24 Budget in the equipment replacement account and earmarked for the Sharon Green to be used towards purchasing a new John Deere tractor with attachments (blower, broom, plow, and spreader).

The SGC discussed the pros and cons of requesting funding in the FY 25-26 Capital Account for an expanded building. Tom Casey noted that although the BOS/BOF has known about this project for a few years, as it's in the 5-year Capital Plan, he is sensitive to the other fiscal issues facing the town in this year's budget (new assessments, a new / expanded Town Garage is desperately needed, very expensive road work that must be done on River Road, and tennis courts that are in disrepair, etc.) Tom Casey suggested that perhaps the SGC hold off requesting funding until FY 25-26 budget or later. In the meantime, Tom Casey noted that he would like to sit down with the BOS to discuss the expanded building and other priorities for the Sharon Green. The estimated cost for the expanded building was \$100,000. When completed, the new addition / building would be able to store larger equipment.

First Selectman Casey Flanagan thanked the SGC for its consideration given the Town's many pressing requests for the FY 25-26 budget. Casey Flangan further noted that although there are numerous additional expenses for the FY 25-26 budget, the SGC has been proactive in giving the BOS / BOF its capital and equipment needs and did request that the building addition be put in the 5-Year Capital Plan. The SGC should not be penalized for doing its due diligence in planning ahead. Mr. Flanagan suggested that we request some amount in the FY 25-26 Budget for the building addition and that each year we should do the same to have funds set aside. Additionally, Mr. Flanagan noted that the BOF would prefer the Town pay directly for equipment costs, etc. and not to finance.

The SGC discussed options and how to proceed with the funding request. Currently, in the FY 23-24 Sharon Green budget, line item 25F is designated as *Leaf Pickup* but no longer needed and could be eliminated. Or, that description could be renamed to *Building Capital Fund*. The SGC discussed whether to request \$10,000 or \$20,000 for FY 24-25 and ultimately decided to request \$10,000.

On a motion made and seconded, the SGC voted unanimously to approve eliminating *Leaf Pickup* (line Item 25F) and rename to *Building Capital Fund* and to request \$10,000 for the FY 24-25 Budget.

On a motion made and seconded, the SGC voted unanimously to approve the following requests for the FY 25-26 budget to be transmitted to the BOS and the BOF; totaling \$55,000 at an increase of 1.2%:

Item (a) Barn, electricity, heat: remain at \$2,000
Item (b) New Equipment: request rolling over \$4,000 into FY 25 budget,
Item (c): Equipment Repair: Remain at \$4,000,
Item (d) Green Repair: remain at \$10,000,
Item (e): Gas & Oil: Remain at \$2,500,
Item (f) Leaf Pickup: Eliminate and add: Building Capital Fund: \$10,000,
Item (g) Tree Fund: Remain at \$20,000,
Item (h) Tree Decorations: Remain at \$500, and
Item (i) Miscellaneous: Remain at \$2,000.

Tom Casey agreed to finalize a document with these items and send it to the BOS and BOF with an explanation about the \$10,000 request for the Green Building. Tom Casey agreed to send documentation to the BOF requesting that the unused \$4,000 in FY 23-24 New Equipment be placed in the equipment replacement account and earmarked for the Sharon Green.

5. Review Requests for Use of Green and Application

Marlene Woodman distributed a revised copy of the **Application for Use of the Sharon Green**. After receiving a request from an organization to use the Green (*VOICE OF ART*), it was recognized that no one was familiar with the organization. Therefore, because the BOS and the SGC have had requests only from organizations that have used the Green in the past, it was decided that we should ask for additional information on the Application in case we have other organizations unfamiliar to the BOS and SGC.

On a motion made and seconded, the SGC Approved the Application from the *Voice of Art* for use of the Sharon Green on September 20 through the 22nd subject to receipt of Insurance Liability documentation

On a motion made and seconded, the SGC voted unanimously to approve the Revised SGC Application.

6. Other Business

Casey Flanagan reported that another car hit the stone flower pot on road going up along the Green. Stephen Wasley said that this happens regularly and that Casey Flanagan should call Jamie Reed, Road Foreman, and the Town Crew will put in back in place.

7. Adjourn

On a motion made and seconded, the SGC adjourned at 5:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlene Woodman

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