

**SHARON SELECTBOARD
SPECIAL MEETING**
In Conjunction with Sharon School Board
WEDNESDAY February 10, 2021

MINUTES (FINAL)
As approved 2/16/21

Attending via Google Meet: Selectboard members Joe Ronan, Mary Gavin, Kevin Gish; Town staff: Margy Becker (SB Assistant); School Board members Don Shaw, Samantha Potter, Chantelle Brackett; Keenan Haley, Principal (SES), Galen Mudgett, Town Moderator; Tara Weatherell (White River Valley Supervisory Union); Nicole Antal;

1. Call to Order:

Joe Ronan called the Selectboard meeting to order at 6:02PM, after Don Shaw had convened the School Board meeting.

2. Adjustments to Agenda:

There were none.

3. Discussion: Preparation and Logistics of Annual Town of Sharon and School District Meeting

Discussions began with consideration of the order and times for the annual school and town meetings, which have been postponed to Saturday, May 8, 2021. A 9AM start time for the school meeting, with the town meeting to follow, was suggested and agreed upon as an acceptable plan.

Margy Becker, Selectboard Assistant, noted recently-developed COVID19 guidelines for town meetings appear on the Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) website, and she read excerpts from those guidelines that noted the requirements for collection of health screenings and contact tracing information from all attendees.

Selectboard member Kevin Gish inquired about discussing whether business should be conducted by Australian ballot. Margy Becker indicated boards still had a 'window' in which to decide on whether to move all business to Australian ballot, suggesting a deadline of March 1st, in order to enable the School District and Town to properly warn each meeting and prepare final reports for the town report.

Kevin Gish stated his view to be supportive of moving all Town business discussed 'on the floor' to Australian ballot. Mary Gavin noted she had been rethinking the decision to host outdoor meetings and found herself to be in agreement with Kevin's suggestion.

Joe Ronan indicated he had been in favor of preparing for outdoor meetings in compliance with COVID 19 guidelines and was being optimistic that the meetings might provide some semblance of normalcy. The use of Australian ballot reduces the risk of spreading the coronavirus, but allows for no discussion of articles.

Galen Mudgett commented that twice as many people attend town meetings compared with school meetings. He further noted the Town already elects officers via Australian ballot. Selectmen pointed out the vote on the Ashley Forest article is also to be by Australian ballot.

After brief further discussions **Kevin Gish made the motion that the Selectboard move all business to be conducted at the May 8, 2021 Town Meeting to Australian ballot. Mary Gavin seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

Joe Ronan thanked School Board members for discussions and indicated it would be appropriate for the Selectboard to adjourn its meeting, to allow the School Board to continue with its discussions concerning its annual meeting. Selectboard members and SB Assistant Margy Becker exited from the meeting at 6:30PM.

Prepared by,
Margy Becker

**please refer to separate minutes for Sharon School Board*