

Sharon Historical Society

Quarterly Membership Meeting March 8, 2020

Meeting called to order by Valerie White at 2:00 p.m.

Members present: Shirley Schofield, Gary Sullivan, Valerie White, Carolyn Weeks, Kristin Slater, Joanne Douglas, Marie Cuneo, Carol Gannon, Hanna Jenner, Kevin Earley, Mary Alioto, Jean Zaniewski, Dan Arguimbau, Debby DeBassio, Todd Arnold, Jimmy Keating, Ernie Varitomos, Sandy Bailey, Don Williams, Helen Early, Tim Bailey, Ken Zaniewski, Eugene Flynn, Alison Gorbatov, David Slater, Richard Kramer, Bob Parrish, Pat Leehey, John "JJ" McGrath, Cathy Nolen, Mike Galvin, Ginny Galvin, Nancy Welch, Janet Haynes, Sally Watters, Chester Johnson, Janis Hill, Sheryle Elson DeGirolamo, Jackie Chados, Jeanne Haines Lestan, Sharon Haines Darling, Peg Arguimbau, Chuck Thomas, Patrick Leehey, Catherine Earley, Lorie Cronin, Joseph Markt, Elsie Goodwin, Tara Goodwin, Joseph Blansfield, Parul Bookbinder, Judy Bookbinder, Nancy Welch, Susan Little, Susan DeGirolamo and Patty MacDougal

Motion by Ernie Varitomos – Moved to nullify the December 2019 election.
Seconded

Discussion: Valerie White expressed concern for the motion and was disappointed that the desire to nullify the election was not previously discussed with her.

Procedural concerns were raised with how the election in December had been conducted.

- A slate of pre-selected individuals was presented and with no alternative choices. Members were expected to vote up or down for the slate. Nominations were not allowed to be taken from the floor. That procedure does not comply with Roberts Rules of Order
- Concerns that non-members or other inappropriate votes may have been counted (voting results were very close)
- An Unauthorized change of Board position from "Past President" to Historian. This did not comply with the bylaws and any change (amendment) was not properly made.

The motion passed by a clear majority.

Valerie White acknowledged the motions passing and offered that the leadership of the society would revert back to the Board that was in position prior to the December election.

It was noted that the previous President, Mike Passmore was not present. A call was made to Mike and reportedly he verified that he had resigned and was not interested in serving as President.

It was then determined that Gary Sullivan was the previous Vice President and he was present at this meeting.

Valerie White then called for the vote.

The motion passed by a significant majority.

Valerie White and Kristin Slater left the meeting.

Gary Sullivan acknowledged that he was expected to take lead of the meeting, but indicated that it was unexpected and sought assistance of John "JJ" McGrath.

Richard Kramer proposed that an election be held and that Valerie White be nominated to serve as the President.

There was a motion and second to hold an election to select officers to temporarily serve pending the annual meeting/election in June. Motion was voted and passed.

Bob Parrish raised a concern for holding an election without a previous notice to the membership. Richard Kramer pointed out that there was not provision in the bylaws to prevent holding an election. There was full discussion and it was agreed that the bylaws clearly allowed for any vacancies on the Board may be filled.

Further discussion and recommendation to not hold an election now and to wait until June.

Gary Sullivan called for the vote on the motion to elect Valerie White as President. Motion passed. Gary affirmed that the board that was previously in place prior to December 2019 would be in place with Valerie White serving as the president.

JJ McGrath made a motion to put off further elections and to adjourn the meeting.

Further discussion took place about holding any further elections and it was determined that the bylaws clearly allowed for the filling of board vacancies.

When asked, the following members indicated their willingness to serve on the board: Mary Alioto, Debbie DeBassio, Jim Keating, Todd Arnold, Sandy Bailey, Ernie Varitimos and Don Williams raised their hands.

JJ McGrath amended his previous motion of reinstating the previous Board of Directors, with Valerie White as President and the seven members identified willing to serve fill the vacant positions of the board.*

This motion was seconded and passed by a wide majority.

A motion was made by Ernie Varitimos that any proposed bylaws be tabled. Motion was seconded and passed by a significant majority.

Business meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Presentation was then made by "JJ" McGrath describing the history of police in Sharon.

*Board of Directors:

Valerie White, President

Gary Sullivan, Vice President

Carolyn Weeks, Treasurer

Joanne Douglas, Chief Archivist

Shirly Schofield, Past President

Carol Gannon, Board Member

Kevin Earley, Board Member

Todd Arnold, Board Member

Mary Alioto, Board Member

Ernie Varitimos, Board Member

Marie Cuneo, Board Member

Deb Debassio, Board Member

Jimmie Keating, Board Member

Don Williams, Board Member

Sandy Bailey, Board Member

