



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Minutes 03-19-2008

MEETING MINUTES MARCH 19, 2008

Members Present: Lin Baker, Barbara Cutler, Janice Dallas, Kerrie Fallon, Susan James, Kevin O'Brien, Maureen St. Hilaire

Members Absent: Barbara Jones

Others Present: Joe Connelly, Director of Recreation
 Stephen Harrington, Pedestrian Advocate
 Paolo Marinelli, Pedestrian Advocate
 Jack Jones, ADA Coordinator

Improvements to Stratton Playfield & Thorndike Field Parking Lot:

Joe Connelly said that the Stratton School Playfield would be upgraded this summer. The upgrades will include drainage improvements on the playfield and some playground equipment improvements that would include the purchase of a web climber. The web climber will be handicapped accessible to mobility-impaired users. Joe Connelly said that rubberized cement would be used as ground cover in the play equipment area with rubberized pads under the swings. Joe also said that an accessible walkway would be installed from the main entrance to the play area.

Kerrie Fallon inquired about the amount of accessible playground equipment available within the Town and if handicapped accessible swings would be installed at the Stratton Play Field. Joe said that he would inquire about the use of installing a handicapped accessible swing at the Stratton Play Field. Joe said that the Summer Street Play Field would be the next play field to be upgraded followed by the Wellington Street Play Field. Joe said that approximately one Town field would be renovated each year, at a cost of \$350,000 to \$500,000.

Joe said that for future projects he would request that the Disability Commission have a representative available during the design stage, and that the entire Disability Commission review preliminary plans with the landscape architect prior to the project being put out to bid.

Warrant Article 23 Pertaining to Snow & Ice Removal:

Stephen Harrington distributed correspondence to the Commission that showed sidewalks and curb cuts from a recent snow storm that had not been cleared of snow and ice, along with other correspondence that was presented to the Board of Selectmen. Stephen said that Warrant Article 23 proposes that the Selectmen expend 5% of the Town's snow removal budget to clear up to ten miles of pedestrian paths of travel along sidewalks located within business areas, school zones and other heavily pedestrian traveled areas. Stephen said the Town of Arlington could use as an estimate the fact that the Town of Lexington paid \$140 per mile to clear snow & ice from sidewalks and curb cut ramps after a 10" snow storm.

Barbara Cutler made a motion seconded by Janice Dallas that the Disability Commission support Warrant Article 23. SO VOTED

Meeting Minutes of January 16, 2008:

Barbara Cutler made a motion seconded by Maureen St. Hilaire to approve the meeting minutes as revised. SO VOTED

Meeting Minutes of February 20, 2008:

Barbara Cutler made a motion seconded by Maureen St. Hilaire to approve the meeting minutes as revised. SO VOTED

Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Legislative Reception:

Barbara Cutler said that Maureen St. Hilaire, Jack Jones and herself attended the Annual Legislative Reception held at the State House. Barbara said that the Governor and Assistant Secretary of Human Services talked at the reception that was attended by many State Legislatures. Barbara said that a Legislative Committee has favorably voted a name change for the Department of Mental Retardation. The new name will be the Department of Developmental Disabilities.

CDBG Funding Requests:

Kevin O'Brien said that \$2,435,774 has been requested of the \$1,285,289 that is available in CDBG funds for fiscal year 2009. Jack said that the Commission had submitted requests in February for \$25,000 for an ADA Accessibility Study and \$150,000 to continue an ADA Curb Cut Ramp Program.

Snow & Ice Removal Meeting:

Paolo Marinelli said that Jack Jones and himself had attended the March 6, 2008 Snow & Ice Removal Meeting. Jack Jones distributed a brochure prepared by the City of Cambridge Public Works Department, that he passed out at the Snow & Ice Removal Meeting. Commission Members agreed that Arlington should consider preparing a similar brochure for next winter. Jack Jones said that Arlington has a Link Program that will provide shoveling assistance for elderly and disabled individuals for a fee.

Human Rights Commission Meeting:

Barbara Cutler said that Barbara Jones, Jack Jones and herself attended a Human Rights Commission Meeting to discuss the vandalism of the Accessible Pedestrian Signal's on Summer Street. Barbara Cutler said that the Human Rights Commission was sympathetic to our concerns but that they were not sure if this act of vandalism was a hate crime.

Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS):

Barbara Jones said that the APS at Forest and Brattle St. are at the present working properly; however the APS at the Northwest corners of Park Ave Ext. and Summer Street is still not functioning properly.

Other Business:

Kevin O'Brien said that John Bean, Director of Public Works, and himself has finished a draft policy regarding usage of bricks on sidewalks. Barbara Cutler and Paolo Marinelli voiced their concerns regarding the language contained in the draft policy. Kevin requested Commission Members with concerns regarding the draft policy to e-mail their concerns to him.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 P.M.