

Arlington Master Plan Advisory Committee

Central School, Main Room - 7:00 PM

Minutes: May 1, 2014

Amended and Approved: May 15, 2014

Members present: Charles Kalasuskas, Sheri Baron, Pam Heidell, Ann LeRoy, Bob Radochia, Wendy Richter

Members absent: Eric Bourassa, Joe Barr, Harris Band, Greg Bowe, Carol Svenson

Also present: Consultants Judi Barrett (RKG) and Patti Kelleher (COG); Christine Scypinski (ARB); Carol Kowalski, Laura Wiener, Ted Fields, and Joey Glushko of the Planning Dept. There were approximately 10 individuals in the audience.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. Carol Kowalski and Charles Kalasuskas greeted attendees and introduced presenters Judi Barrett and Patti Kelleher. The evening's topic was a presentation on "Historic and Cultural Resource Areas Working Paper." Patti Kelleher clarified the meaning of historic and cultural resource areas in the master plan context – emphasizing that "place" rather than programmatic activities are looked at. She highlighted some issues raised in the creation of the report, which were exemplary of town-wide issues regarding the topic:

1. There is a lack of documentation on the historic resource area properties and structures;
2. There is a lack of educational materials created in the recent past;
3. There is a lack of a preservation policy;
4. There are strong redevelopment pressures which threaten existing historical/cultural resources;
5. There are small, incremental changes happening which threaten the quality of the building fabric;
6. There is lacking a sense of stewardship, especially a cooperative stewardship, of groups working together to preserve and support historic and cultural resources.

Following Patti's presentation, the four discussion questions were addressed; following are the four questions, and some of the comments for each:

1. What historic Town resources are important to you, and which do you feel are most at risk?
 1. "Benign neglect" of both public and private facilities;
 2. There are negligible resources for maintenance and restoration;
 3. Barbara Thornton mentioned that there is an Article on the 2014 Town Meeting Warrant to develop a maintenance plan for Town properties, including historic structures;
 4. Some resources are in private ownership, but are part of the Town heritage/resources;
 5. Historical documents and material – "information" material;
 6. Among the specific locations cited as important are: Jarvis House, MDC Pump House, Mt. Gilboa House, the Town Hall Civic Block – including the Dallin Hunter and flag pole

as well as the Town Hall Gardens and reflecting pool, the Old Burying Ground, the Play Fair Arch at Spy Pond Field, Cooke's Hollow Dam.

2. What are the most significant threats to Arlington's historic resources?

- Age, weather deterioration without proper maintenance;
- Properly trained and knowledgeable staff aware of preservation techniques and skills;
- Lack of knowledgeable oversight of projects; enforcement of bylaws and policies;
- Lack of financial resources;
- A low priority on list of community needs.

3. How can Town build support for historic preservation initiatives, including historic district designation?

- Recognize Capital Preservation Fund
- Adopt Community Preservation Act;
- Create a dedicated fund or budget line item for preservation purposes;
- Develop design guidelines;
- Create identifying and wayfinding signage program;
- Develop an education program about rules regarding renovation of historic properties and within historic districts; develop an outreach program for working with realtors, homeowners, and construction industry;
- Expand/broaden the resource inventory.

4. Many of Arlington's historic assets, such as Town Hall, the Robbins Memorial Gardens, or the Central School (Senior Center), serve as valuable community spaces. How can the Town continue to maintain these historic resources as community assets while remaining both historically sensitive and fiscally responsible?

- Assign a small percentage of tax revenue to the Historic Commissions
- Resolve ADA implementation issues;
- Balance the use and vitality of the structures
- Education regarding the resource, including costs to use and improve and adequately maintain the structure.

It was recommended that a list of the historic and cultural resources appear as an appendix in the Master Plan document.

After the presentation/discussion, the Master Plan Advisory Committee met to address other business. The minutes of the April 10 and April 17 meetings were tabled, as there was not a quorum present at this later time; the minutes were tabled until the May 15 meeting.

Action: Minutes for April 10 April 17 must be reviewed/accepted.

The MPAC will report to Town Meeting on Monday, May 05, 2014. Co-chairs and Carol Kowalski will work on the presentation; Consultant Judi Barrett will join in the presentation.

The topical papers are being reviewed after the comments for each are collected; the Public Facilities Working Paper Group (Charlie Kalaskas and Bob Radochia) has been submitted to MPAC, but has not had the benefit of a staff person working with them. Leslie Mayer of the Park and Rec. Commission has some corrections/comments which need to be addressed. It was decided that after Town Meeting they would meet to discuss this paper; they would benefit from knowing what the May 15 presentation of the Open Space and Natural Resources Working Paper would contain.

Action: Public Facilities Working Group, Leslie Mayer, and a staff person will meet after the close of Town Meeting to address content of this paper.

Carol Kowalski reported that the consultants would likely be able to do the in-depth analysis on the **four** locations submitted for consideration.

The summertime schedule is still in flux; MPAC members have been requested to notify Joey Glushko when they will not be available for summer meetings, so that we can ensure meeting dates when a quorum can be anticipated.

Action: All MPAC members – send summer schedule information to Jglushko@town.arlington.ma.us

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.
Minutes submitted by Joey Glushko