



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
**730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476**  
**Phone: 781-316-3000**

**webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us**

## Minutes 01/09/2012

**TOWN OF ARLINGTON**  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, January 9, 2012**  
**7:15 p.m.**

Present: Ms. Rowe, Chair, Mr. Greeley, Vice Chair, Ms. LaCourt and Mr. Dunn

Absent: Mrs. Mahon

Also present: Mr. Sullivan, Ms. Rice and Mrs. Sullivan

1. Donation of Artwork by Nancy Flynn  
 Kevin F. Greeley, Selectman

Mr. Greeley thanked Mrs. Flynn for the donation of her paintings.

Mr. Greeley moved to refer the paintings to the Public Art Committee to decide the proper placement of the artwork. SO VOTED (4-0)

FOR APPROVAL

2. CONSENT AGENDA (one vote required for approval of all items)
  - a. Minutes of Meetings: December 19, 2011
  - b. Request: Contractor/Drainlayer License  
 Mitchell Associates Construction Corp., 12 Salisbury Street, Shrewsbury, MA
  - c. REAPPOINTMENTS
    - Board of Library Trustees
    - Brigid Kennedy-Pfister
    - Barbara Muldoon  
 (terms to expire 1/31/2015)
    - Conservation Commission
    - David White  
 (term to expire 1/31/2015)
    - Council on Aging
    - William Carey  
 (term to expire 1/31/2015)

Mr. Greeley moved approval. SO VOTED (4-0)

3. CITIZENS OPEN FORUM

There were no matters presented for consideration of the Board.

TRAFFIC RULES & ORDERS/OTHER BUSINESS

4. Request: Extension of 6 Month Trial @ Water Street/Massachusetts Avenue/Spengler Way  
 Ed Starr, TAC, Working Group Lead  
 Mr. Starr reported that TAC upgraded the signage for the "No Left Turn" and will re-evaluate in April to report back in May at a meeting.

Mr. Greeley moved receipt of report.

SO VOTED (4-0)

5. Discussion: Hackney/Taxi Licensing Regulations

Juliana Rice, Town Counsel

Ms. Rice reported on the newer draft regulations highlighting the difference between hackney driver license (issued by Police) and taxi business license (issued by Selectmen) and the implementing of a medallion system (non-transferrable).

Mr. Ronald Bonney of Arlex/Yellow Cab spoke stating: (also distributed a hand out)

- Only 10 parking spots for cabs in town - reason to not have all cabs on the road at once
- Suggested a written test by town for hackney driver licenses
- Suggested CORI/sexual offender review of all hackney driver applicants
- Suggested a substitution of a site plan instead of an Arlington location for address
- No smoking in all taxis
- Town should notify cab owners if they see a problem with a taxi
- Suggested seniors be allowed to sit up front as handicap passengers are allowed
- Requested a rate increase of \$.40 more than the current rate- \$3.60 a mile
- Suggested eliminating verbiage of meter flags-they are not used anymore
- No one is allowed to use their cell phone while driving
- Shared rides occur based upon prior notice to passengers
- Suggested the standard rule of 1 cab to every 1,000 residents
- Suggested opening up the market by allowing current cab owners the right to lease out business
- To add other licenses it would hurt the current owners who have paid \$150,000-it would be anarchy if there were more cabs on the road

· We take cabs off the roads so our drivers earn more money. If there were more cabbies, good drivers would leave and then we'd be left with less desirable drivers

Mr. Louis Truscello of Arlmont Transportation Co. spoke stating:

- This has all been discussed before, this is a town not a city and the market for cab rides fluctuates - there's not the volume like Somerville and Cambridge
- Back in the 60's and 70's we bought out all the smaller cab owners to have a thriving business, letting more people in would change the business-possibly driving us out of business
- When cabs aren't needed then we "shelve" them until needed, but the licenses are paid for at renewal time
- We pay \$50 a car for the license, plus another \$7,500 insurance fee per car for cabs (only a \$1,500 insurance fee per car for livery) it requires a much smaller base
- Do have some waits in serving passengers, but the performance of the cabs overall is fine
- Requested consideration for letting the program stay as is with no additional licenses
- Respectfully requests current cab owners be put on notice if the Selectmen open up the market

Mr. Thomas Whelan of Arlington Veteran's Cab spoke stating:

- Others are ready/want to come into the Arlington cab business
- Requested that the Selectmen protect current cab owner rights
- Suggested if increase license number or make changes he'd like another license for his business

Mr. Dunn found the information interesting and asked the office to compile more such as: the total operating number of cabs, the graveyard/shelved number of cabs and rate comparisons of surrounding towns.

The Selectmen after some discussion asked Ms. Rice to bring back to the January 23rd meeting a revised draft of the rules and regulations.

Correspondence Received

Thomas K. Steel, Jr.  
Vice President, RCN

RCN Rate Notice

Be Rec'd

Mr. Greeley moved receipt of correspondence.

SO VOTED (4-0)

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Greeley wished everyone a happy new year and thanked the staff for organizing the Holiday Help Family need program.

Mr. Greeley made a plea to all residents to consider running for one of the many elective offices with openings: Board of Selectmen, School Committee, Board of Assessor's, and Town Meeting members.

Mr. Dunn stated that on the January 23rd meeting he will report on the Parking Committee information re: lots and

meters.

Ms. LaCourt reminded everyone of the 24th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance will feature guest speaker Haji Shearer and music by Arlington High School Orchestra. No meal, but pot luck dessert. The event will be held at Arlington Town Hall, doors open at 6:45 p.m., program begins 7:30 p.m.

Ms. LaCourt announced that she would not be running for Selectmen in April and felt it was a great way to serve the Town -encouraging others to consider running for the seat.

Ms. Rowe sent condolences to Mrs. Mahon for the death of her uncle.

Ms. Rowe announced that she will not be a candidate for re-election as Selectmen. Ms. Rowe said she enjoyed being a Selectmen and that it was an honor to serve the people. Ms. Rowe hopes to continue as a Town meeting member and will remain involved in Town business.

Ms. Rowe informed the public that the Town Manager search was on schedule in the process with public interviews of the final candidates to be held in the next few weeks. Candidates and resumes are confidential until this point.

Mr. Sullivan expressed his thanks to Selectmen Rowe and LaCourt for their hours of work and for their professionalism in the fair way they looked out for the Town.

Mr. Dunn moved to adjourn at 8:30 PM.

SO VOTED (4-0)

Next scheduled meeting of BoS January 23, 2012.

#### AGENDA ITEM DOCUMENTS USED

2. (a) December 19, 2011 Meeting Minutes
2. (b) Contractor Drainlayer's Application
2. (c) Reappointment to Board of Library Trustees Memorandums: Brigid Kennedy-Pfister/ Barbara Muldoon/ David White/ William Carey
4. Request for Extension of 6 Month Trial at Water/Mass/Spengler; T.A.C.
5. (a) Second Revised Draft Taxi Regulations; Juliana Rice, Town Counsel
5. (b) Yellow Cab Association Hand-Out; Ronald Bonney