



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Selectmen's Minutes 03-09-2009

TOWN OF ARLINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Meeting Minutes
 Monday, March 9, 2009

7:15 p.m.

Present: Ms. Rowe, Chair, Mr. Hurd, Vice Chair, Mr. Greeley, Mrs. Mahon and Ms. LaCourt
 Also present: Mr. Sullivan, Ms. Rice and Mrs. Krepelka

FOR APPROVAL

1. CONSENT AGENDA (one vote required for approval of all items)
 - a. Minutes of Meetings: January 26, 2009, February 23, 2009
 - Mr. Hurd moved approval of the January 26, 2009 Minutes. (5-0)
 - Mr. Hurd moved approval of the February 23, 2009 Minutes (4-0)
 - Mr. Greeley was absent for this meeting.
 - b. Request: One Day All Alcohol License, 3/27/09
 Yvonne Gonsalves, Bishop School Retirement Party
 Mr. Hurd moved approval subject to all conditions as set forth. (5-0)
 - c. Request: One Day Wine & Malt License, 3/28/09
 Donna M. Nowlan, Arlington Catholic High School Reunion, Class of 1973
 Mr. Hurd moved approval subject to all conditions as set forth. (5-0)

7:30 p.m. Public Hearing

2. Vote: CDBG Requests for FY2009-2010 Funding

Kevin O'Brien, Director of Planning

Mr. O'Brien submitted applications approximately in the amount of \$2.5 Million Dollars in request for Federal Community Development Block Grants. Mr. O'Brien stated that he doesn't know how much CDBG money will be available through the town, but feels there will be enough to fund half the requests. Mr. O'Brien informed the Board that CDBG funds should be used only to benefit low income or blighted areas and cannot be used to fund services the Town should fund on its own.

Mr. Brian Connor, Chairman, Arlington Housing Authority, submitted an application requesting a Community Block Development Grant to be used for the construction of a Community Center at Menotomy Manor. This new Community Center would be used to broaden the AHA outreach programs to the children residing in the 179 units at Menotomy Manor as well as other families in need throughout the East Arlington neighborhood. As an additional benefit, in building a new Community Center, the Housing Authority would then be able to offer a new housing opportunity for a needy family interested in utilizing the three bedroom unit now being used for the after school program. The Housing Authority is requesting \$500,000. from the CBDG Program.

Lisa Urben, Youth Program Director, Fidelity House submitted an application requesting funding of \$15,000. The Menotomy Manor Outreach Program originated to directly address the developmental needs of Arlington's low-income youth, offer opportunities and help assimilate them into the community. It is a one of a kind program in Arlington that is able to offer long-term benefits and has served well over a thousand children since its inception.

After the Public Hearing was closed Chairman Rowe asked Selectman LaCourt and Selectman Hurd if they would continue to serve

on the Subcommittee for the CDBG and both agreed.

Mr. Greeley moved approval.

SO VOTED (5-0)

3. CITIZENS OPEN FORUM

Any matter presented for consideration of the Board shall neither be acted upon, nor a decision made the night of the presentation in accordance with the policy under which the Open Forum was established.

Mr. Brian Greeley, Chairman, Patriots Day Committee, appeared before the Board stating that the Patriots Day Parade will be on Sunday, April 19, 2009, starting at Forest Street and will continue to Linwood Street, passing in review at the Town Hall. The parade will step off at 12:30 p.m.

TRAFFIC RULES & ORDERS/OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion: Future BOS Meetings

Board of Selectmen Meeting Schedule 2009

Monday, May 11, 2009

Monday, May 18, 2009

Monday, June 8, 2009

Monday, June 22, 2009

Monday, July 13, 2009

Monday, August 10, 2009

5. WARRANT ARTICLE HEARINGS

Article 15 Bylaw Amendment/Demand Fee Unpaid Taxes

The Board moved approval to have the Collector of Taxes increase the current five dollar \$5.00 fee to \$30.00 to encourage timely payment of taxes and to offset the Town's costs of collection. This fee increase will have no effect on residents who pay their taxes on time.

Mr. Greeley moved approval.

SO VOTED (5-0)

Article 18 Bylaw Amendment/Animal Control

(tabled from 2/23/09 meeting)

Ms. LaCourt moved to table 3/16/09

SO VOTED (5-0)

Article 19 Bylaw Amendment/Canine Control

(tabled from 2/23/09 meeting)

Ms. LaCourt moved no action.

SO VOTED (5-0)

Susan Doctrow, the proponent of this article stated that it is not her intent to submit a proposal competing with the Green Dog article under Article 18. If Town Meeting does not take action on the Green Dog article that is agreeable to the proponent, she may make a substitute motion on Town Meeting floor.

Article 20 Bylaw Amendment/Off Leash Dogs at Robbins Farm Park

(tabled from 2/23/09 meeting)

Mr. Greeley moved no action.

SO VOTED (5-0)

Charles Bryant, Grandview Road, stated that many of the Robbins Farm abutters and individuals who reside in the surrounding neighborhoods feel that it is time to remove the negative emotions that have surrounded this controversy, especially by the individuals who support off leash dogs, and focus on the existing town and state laws we well as the existing available literature and then come to a thoughtful decision based on this information. He stated the "best interest" may not please all individuals, but attempting to decide impartially on the greater good for all individuals who utilize Robbins Farm Park throughout the year should be of utmost importance for the community at large. Mr. Bryant believes that the only reasonable solution for both sides of this issue is to construct fenced dog parks in areas large enough to

provide dogs of all sizes ample opportunity to get the exercise they require.

Michael Quinn, 15 Shawnee Road, Mustafa Varoglu, 26 Shawnee Road, Julie Ledwig, 178 Newport Street and Chad Mikkelsen, 82 Grandview Road, all spoke in support of this article.

The Board is agreeable with the proponents of this article but feels their request can be included with Article 18 when it is before Town Meeting.

Article 21 Bylaw Amendment/Gated Dog Parks

(tabled from 2/23/09 meeting)

Ms. LaCourt moved to table until the people from Brookline Green Dog Committee have spoken to the Board.

SO VOTED (5-0)

Mr. Jack Jones, Director of Housing and Disability Programs read a letter submitted by Barbara Jones, Member of Commission on Disability, stating the Commission urges the Board of Selectmen to support this article. Michael Quinn, Charles Bryant, Bob Radochia, 45 Columbia Road, Susan Doctrow, Ruth McAllister, 59 Hawthorne Road and Christine Deshler, 65 Huntington Road spoke in favor of this article.

Article 22 Bylaw Amendment/Locations for Unfenced Off Leash Dog Areas

(tabled from 2/23/09 meeting)

Ms. LaCourt moved no action.

SO VOTED (5-0)

The Board is in agreement with the proponents that if there are unfenced spaces where dogs may be off-leash, there should be "buffer zones" between those spaces and playgrounds and private homes to prevent intrusion by unleashed dogs into those areas. The Board feels that these suggestions will be included in Article 18.

Mustafa Varoglu and Janet Bryant spoke in favor of this article.

Article 23 Bylaw Amendment/Increase Dog Licensing Fees

(tabled from 2/23/09 meeting)

Ms. LaCourt moved approval.

SO VOTED (5-0)

The Board agreed with the proponents to increase dog license fees, impose fines for failure to comply with the licensing requirements and to use the increased revenue related to dog licensing to enhance the Town's animal control capacity.

Mustafa Varoglu asked the Board to support this article. Unfortunately, David O'Rourke was unable to be at the meeting due to previous commitment.

Article 26 Local Approval for Placing of Liens on Certain Properties in the Town of Arlington

(tabled from 2/23/09)

Mr. Greeley moved to table.

SO VOTED (5-0)

The Board asked that Mr. Gilligan submit more detailed information as to what unpaid fees could trigger a lien. Ms.

LaCourt stated she would probably never support liens for unpaid school fees.

Mr. Hurd felt the Article is mean-spirited and Mrs. Mahon said it is unfair.

She said it treats residents who would be subject to the liens and non-resident who are outside of Mr. Gilligan's jurisdiction differently.

Article 27 Home Rule Legislation/After School Scholarship Fund

The Board voted to table this article until after Josh Lobel, a School Committee appointee to Vision 2020, meets with the School Committee and reports back to the Board.

Mr. Gilligan stated that unlike Dollars for Scholars, which is available to anyone in Town, this tax-check-off box would only benefit public school parents. Mr. Greeley thought the check-off request might set a bad precedent encouraging other groups to ask for check-off boxes on tax forms.

Article 34 Revolving Funds

Mr. Greeley moved to table until March 30, 2009.

SO VOTED (5-0)

Article 35 Authority to File for Grants

Mr. Greeley moved approval.

SO VOTED (5-0)

Article 67 Resolution/Supporting Return of National Guard to Massachusetts
Mrs. Mahon moved to table until March 23, 2009. SO VOTED (5-0)

Article 68 Resolution Support Legislative Municipally Sponsored Automobile Insurance Program
Mr. Greeley moved approval. SO VOTED (5-0)

Mr. Andrew Fischer appeared before the Board asking for their support in supporting a legislative municipally sponsored automobile insurance program as an alternative source of revenue for municipalities. The Board agreed to explore any viable idea that would assist the Town in raising revenues to support municipal functions.

6. FINAL VOTES AND COMMENTS

Article 17 Bylaw Amendment/Rabies Vaccination Clinic
Mr. Greeley moved approval. SO VOTED (5-0)

Correspondence Received

Joel Higginson Audible Pedestrian Signals at Summer St. and Overlook Rd. Be Rec'd
433 Summer Street

Darcy C. Devney Vote No Action on Off-Leash Dog Areas Warrant Article Be Rec'd
Robert M. Kuhn
110 Thorndike Street

President Jaffray Concerns Re: Edith Fox Library Be Rec'd
Via Web QA

Robert Mirak, Chairman Thank you Be Rec'd
The Alan Hovhaness
Commemorative Committee

Joel Pessa Donation to the Town of Arlington Be Rec'd
Dallas, Texas Memorial for Edmund and Mary Pessa

Alice Dungan Bouvrie Support of the Green Dog Initiative Be Rec'd
143 Woodside Lane

Bob Radochia Green Dog Pilot Project Proposal Comments Be Rec'd
45 Columbia Road

Mr. Hurd moved to send request of Joel Pessa to the Public Memorial Committee.
SO VOTED (5-0)

Mrs. Mahon moved receipt of correspondence. SO VOTED (5-0)

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Sullivan reported that the Committee is making final plans regarding the 25th Anniversary of our Sister City Nagaokakyō.

Mrs. Mahon stated she is requesting to see the final plans before the Conservation Commission meets with DCR regarding the proposed bikepath.

Mrs. Mahon requested that she would like more information regarding the proposal of the Mass. Avenue Corridor – she is very concerned with the bike usage, public safety and traffic.

Mr. Hurd stated he was very much involved with the proposal being put together. The present proposal would make the business community in East Arlington a better place to walk, drive and would increase safety when the final plans are submitted.

Ms. LaCourt reported that the Affordable Housing Corporation will be having their Annual Walk on Sunday, April 26th, and would urge her colleagues to attend.

Ms. LaCourt stated that she is speaking with the Council on Aging on Monday, March 30th, at the Senior Center to discuss how the budget cuts may affect senior issues. Marianne Curren will be coordinating the program with the volunteers.

Mrs. Mahon moved to adjourn at 10:35 p.m.

SO VOTED (5-0)

A true record: Attest:

Marie A. Krepelka
Board Administrator

Next meeting of BOS March 23, 2009