



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

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Selectmen's Minutes 06-22-2009

TOWN OF ARLINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Meeting Minutes
 Monday, June 22, 2009

7:45 p.m.

Present: Mrs. Mahon, Vice Chair, Mr. Hurd, Ms. LaCourt and Ms. Rowe

Absent: Mr. Greeley, Chair

*Ms. LaCourt left meeting early and was not present for vote.

Also Present: Mr. Sullivan, Ms. Rice and Mrs. Krepelka

Proclamation

Oakes Plimpton

Mr. Hurd read the proclamation and the Board thanked Oakes for starting the Farmers Market and his many years of service.

FOR APPROVAL

1. CONSENT AGENDA (one vote required for approval of all items)

a. Minutes of Meetings: June 8, 2009

b. Request: One Day Beer & Wine License. 6/29/09. @ Whittemore Robbins House
 Lt. Robert Bongiorno, Arlington Police Dept.

c. FY 2009 Transfer Request

Nancy T. Galkowski, Deputy Town Manager

Mr. Hurd moved approval.

SO VOTED (4-0)

2. Introduction of the Director of Planning and Community Development Appointee: Carol Kowalski

Brian Sullivan, Town Manager

Ms. Kowalski was unable to attend and Mr. Sullivan will introduce her to the Board at a later date.

3. a. Board of Survey

Hill Park Drive (formerly 50 Washington Street)
 (tabled from 5/11/09 meeting)

Attorney Richard Keshian appeared before the Board on behalf of Jennifer Hruska for Board of Survey approval. Attorney Keshian submitted revised plans for Hill Park Drive (formerly 50 Washington Street). He stated that the width of the proposed roadway is now 35 feet – this is a change from the previously proposed width of 30 feet. Access to the site was improved by increasing the radius of the curb at the intersection with Washington Street and the slope of the roadway was also adjusted to a maximum of 8%. The drainage continues to be a concern but only as it relates to the responsibility of maintenance and upkeep. The developer has agreed that a Homeowner's Association will be created for the project and responsibility of the drain system will fall on the Association and not the Town.

Ms. Rowe asked Attorney Keshian, Michael Rademacher and Town Manager to work out an agreement with the owner

regarding the collection of trash and snow plowing.

Mr. Hurd moved to continue the hearing in order for the Board to review the latest changes to the original plan and would take a final vote on July 13th. SO VOTED (4-0)

Mr. Stephen Meister, 19 Village Lane, wanted to know what Town services these private ways were receiving - snow removal and trash collection.

Ms. Mahon stated that it is the intention of the homeowners to take care of the plowing and trash collections and each case is different

Ms. Rowe moved to close the Public Hearing. SO VOTED (4-0)

b. Board of Survey

Lee Terrace

(tabled from 5/11/09 meeting)

Attorney Keshian stated that his client was asking permission to build a one family structure on this particular land, which is not a Board of Survey acceptance street. While it is understood that the proposed private way is currently utilized for access as a right-of way, it fails to meet several significant criteria applied to projects requesting acceptance as a private way. Most notable is the insufficient width and lack of a vehicle turn around at the roadway terminus.

Ms. LaCourt stated that the applicant needed to decide if he should be asking for a Board of Survey acceptance or go before the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Ms. Rowe stated that this application for a roadway does not meet any standard of safety.

Mr. Rademacher, Town Engineer, stated that ideally they would like a 35' or 40' width roadway. In his opinion, Lee Terrace does not meet these standards.

Mr. Hurd asked if the lot has been listed on the tax roll as a build able lot. Clifford E. Rober, Professional Land Surveyor, stated that the owner of the property has been paying taxes for a buildable lot.

Ms. Rowe moved to deny request. SO VOTED (4-0)

4. 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. Robert Radochia, 45 Columbia Road, appeared before the Board regarding his annual report on graffiti, missing sidewalk lights and traffic issues.

1. Graffiti – progress has been made in many areas although many of the fire alarm boxes, utility enclosures and mailboxes continue to have visible graffiti markings on them --some of them with unsuitable sayings.
2. Sidewalk lights in the center – there are now five locations marked with orange cones where the lights are missing. We are now into the fifth year of this problem
3. Newspaper boxes on Mass. Avenue between Medford Street and Mystic Street. It is a relief to see them gone and not have to look at them or maneuver around them. If we could only find a way to keep our utility poles free from being trashed with notices of items for sale, services, advertising and upcoming events, our town might look a little more pleasing.
4. Pedestrians crossing at Mass. Avenue/Mystic and Pleasant Streets. The pedestrian crossing hazard remains. The timing of the lights continues to send pedestrians into the crosswalks while traffic is still traveling through the intersection and crosswalks.
5. The residents on the private way dead end part of Columbia Road are still waiting for a response to the questions relative to street signage asked in our January 5, 2008 to the Selectmen.
6. Snow removal – “I can’t remember the last time the town has been so aggressive about clearing sidewalk intersections and bus stops as this past year. The pedestrian deserves a safe passage also. Job well done even if it cost us a little more.”
The Board thanked Mr. Radochia for bringing his concerns to the Board and will forward his comments to the designated department.

TRAFFIC RULES & ORDERS/OTHER BUSINESS

5. Comptroller's Report

Ruth Lewis, Comptroller

Ms. LaCourt

Ms. Lewis appeared before the Board and stated she would forward copies of different financial reports to Ms. LaCourt and Ms. Rowe. After they have looked at the reports, she would sit down with the subcommittee to discuss what they would like to see included in said reports.

6. Vote: Special Municipal Employee/Board of Assessors

Juliana Rice, Town Counsel

Assessor Mary Winstanley O'Connor, an attorney who represented CVS before the Arlington Redevelopment Board, stated that by allowing members of the Board of Assessors to become Special Municipal Employees would allow her to represent clients without having to seek advice from Town Counsel every time she represents clients that have to appear before different boards in Town without violating ethics law. The change to Special Municipal Employee status affects all members of the Board.

Ms. Rowe moved approval.

SO VOTED (4-0)

7. For Approval: Presentation of MWRA Water Pipeline Project

Jeffrey S. McLaughlin, MWRA Sr. Community Coordinator

Mr. McLaughlin, Sr. Community Coordinator, Public Affairs, MWRA, presented a power point presentation regarding a construction project that involves the rehabilitation of an existing water line. The project involves the cleaning and cement lining of 6,250 feet of a 20-inch cast iron water main located within Massachusetts Avenue. The line travels out of their water pump station on Brattle Court to Brattle Street and takes a left onto Mass. Avenue and continues to the intersection of Medford Street and Mass. Avenue. The water line was installed in 1899 and is in need of rehabilitation. The construction will involve the locating of access pits approximately 500-1000 feet apart along the eastbound side of Mass. Avenue. The access area will allow machinery to enter the water line and clean and line the pipe. The project also involves the replacement of old valves along the route.

Mrs. Mahon asked where they would be storing the construction vehicles at night. She suggested that they store large vehicles at the Town Yard. Mrs. Mahon also asked that the Town Engineer and Board of Selectmen be notified as to when construction would start and what their plans are regarding notifying residents of water shut offs, etc.

Ms. Rowe asked that the presentation be put on the Website and thought it was a good idea to notify the Chamber of Commerce of the future project.

Mr. Hurd moved receipt of report.

SO VOTED (4-0)

8. For Approval: Federal Census 2010, Complete Count Committee

Kevin O'Brien, Director of Planning and Community Development

The Board voted to establish a committee. This committee will do community outreach to educate and encourage participation in the 2010 Federal Census.

Mr. Hurd moved approval.

SO VOTED (3-0)*

9. Jason Street Traffic Concerns

Diane Mahon, Selectman

Mrs. Mahon asked if we would have the School Transportation Driver, Police Department, School Superintendent and the Transportation Advisory Committee look into the school bus stops on Jason Street between Brunswick Road and Norfolk Road. It is her understanding that the new configuration is not working well – there are three stops in that short distance.

Mr. Hurd moved to refer to Transportation Advisory Committee. SO VOTED (3-0)*

10. Energy Smack Down

Annie LaCourt, Selectman

Ms. Rowe read the proclamation congratulating the Energy Smackdown program. Ms. LaCourt introduced the team co-captains Scott Smith and Laurel Kayne and Ryan Katofsky, member of the Leadership Council.

Ms. LaCourt stated the Arlington team came in first in the yearlong battle to reduce its carbon footprint earning more points than the teams from Medford and Cambridge.

Glenn Koenig stated he reduced his heating oil by 66 percent after installing solar heat. He said that this is just the beginning and participating in the competition had other benefits besides the savings on energy.

Ms. Rowe congratulated the Team Captains for all their work and was extremely grateful that they had included the

children to participate in all their events.

Correspondence Received

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

David DeLorenzo, Notice of Public Comment Period Be Rec'd
MA DEP State Revolving Fund Programs

Megan Mulcahy Project Eligibility Be Rec'd
Mass. Housing Partnership

Mr. Hurd moved receipt of correspondence. SO VOTED (3-0)*

New Business

Mr. Sullivan reported the Legislative Conference Committee budget issued last Friday, June 19th and the analysis of the Local Aid figures for Arlington indicates that we will be close to what we had appropriated at the Town Meeting (+\$47,381). However, the Special Education Circuit Breaker appropriation appears to have been significantly reduced with a potential deficit of \$300,000. for the Town

Mr. Sullivan stated he would be on vacation from Tuesday, June 23rd to Friday, June 26th and Mrs. Galkowski would be available during that time.

Mr. Sullivan reported that the Town of Arlington was proposing two local projects for consideration to be included in the TIP to be funded with second round Economic Stimulus Funds – Forest Street reconstruction and Brattle Street culvert.

Mr. Hurd stated that last Tuesday he had a three-hour meeting with the Mass. Avenue Corridor Committee. They have made some changes and the new members were pleased as to why we came to these recommendations. He reported that they would be having a meeting on Wednesday, June 24th, at 7:30 p.m., Senior Building, Maple Street regarding the Mass. Ave. Corridor Project. Mr. Hurd thanked the Town and staff for all their help and support with the Feast of East. He stated the perfect weather made it a real success.

Mr. Hurd asked Mr. Sullivan to look into the sign that was erected on Lake Street recently regarding the Junction of Route 2. He feels it is much too large and needs to be removed.

Mr. Hurd recommended that we dissolve the existing Mugar Committee and form a new committee to keep a watch on what is happening with that land. He recommended that each Selectmen appoint one member to the Committee and at least two members of the Board.

Ms. Rowe stated she had received a call from Deborah Fennick who is on the Board of the Cambridge Montessori School. The School and Gwen Noyes of Oaktree Development are still looking into the feasibility of acquiring the land from David Mugar.

They have not signed a P & S on the land and have until August 11th to do. They have had one meeting with Mass Highway, which was positive, and have another meeting planned with Mass Highway in a week and a half. After that meeting with MHD, they plan to call us to set up another meeting. Tetrach Rizzo is also looking more carefully at the hydrological issues on the site during this time as well.

Ms. Mahon stated she would confer with the Chair, Mr. Greeley, before we advertise for appointments. Mr. Hurd and Mrs. Mahon feel the original members should be asked if they still want to participate on the committee. If they do not want to stay on the committee, a thank you letter should be sent and a notice advertising for other residents that are interested in joining the committee should be posted. Mrs. Mahon feels that Town Officials should be only ex-officio/non-voting members.

Mr. Hurd thanked Mike Rademacher, Town Engineer, for a great job he does for the Town of Arlington.

Ms. Rowe and Mrs. Mahon had a meeting last Tuesday with the Battle Road Scenic Byway Committee, which was established to preserve the entire stretch from Arlington to Concord. The roads of the byway are Massachusetts Avenue in Arlington and Lexington, North Great Road in Lincoln, and Lexington Road and Monument Street in Concord. It will also run through the national park. Ms. Rowe hopes the scenic byway will bring some deserved attention to the Town of Arlington, which has often been overlooked, in historical accounts of the Revolution.

Ms. Rowe feels other towns have done a better job of highlighting their historical places of interest than we have and is very excited about this. She feels it would bring many tourists to Arlington. The scenic byway is an opportunity for us to be more included and get more publicity.

Mrs. Mahon feels we could become very creative, but will leave that to the new Planning Director.

Ms. Rowe stated that she has received the 75% Alewife Brook Greenway Corridor Improvement Project plans and will look at them more carefully. She will report back to the Board after she has reviewed them.

Ms. Rowe reported that she and the Town Manager attended a meeting on the Commercial Development Plan project with Larry Koff & Associates. At the present time, the Consultants are reviewing parking in East Arlington.

Mrs. Mahon asked the Town Manager if the Spring Street construction vehicles could be parked at Grove Street at the Town Yard during the construction project. Mrs. Mahon has had many requests from neighbors in the Spring Street/Jason Street area asking if something could be done.

Mrs. Mahon asked the Town Manager if he would give the Board a copy of the new trash and recyclables contract.

Mrs. Mahon asked Mrs. Krepelka if she would ask ACMI if we could have microphones in the back of the room – people can hear up front but cannot hear in the back row.

Mrs. Mahon moved to adjourn at 10:05 p.m.

A true record: Attest:

Marie A. Krepelka
Board Administrator

Next meeting of BOS July 13, 2009