



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

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Selectmen's Minutes 10-06-2008

**TOWN OF ARLINGTON
 BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Meeting Minutes
 Monday, October 6, 2008

7:15 p.m.

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

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

Absent: Mr. Greeley

FOR APPROVAL

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

a. Minutes of Meeting: September 25, 2008

b. Request: One Day All Alcohol License, 11/14/08

Katharine Fennelly, Robbins Library Fundraiser

c. Request: One Day Wine & Malt License, 10/15/08

Joanna A. Ain, Outreach Coordinator, Housing Corporation of Arlington

Mr. Hurd moved approval.

SO VOTED (4-0)

SO VOTED (4-0)

2. Approval: 2009 Health Insurance Rates

Annie LaCourt

Ms. LaCourt stated that the health insurance rate increases for our self-insured plans range from 10%-31% depending on the plan; total anticipated impact to the FY2010 budget is a 10% increase.

Mrs. Galkowski updated the Board on the strides that have been made by the Union leadership and the Town in addressing this critical issue of rising health care costs and the opportunities available in joining the GIC. In the spring the Town met with the unions to begin a fact-finding process on the possibility of joining GIC. Two meetings were held with presenters from MAPC, which championed the GIC legislation, and a representative from the Group Insurance Commission who explained the process of joining GIC and the plans available to participants. The Town encouraged the unions to hire a consultant to further explore the pros and cons of pursuing the GIC program. After considerable work on their part they have hired Boston Benefit Partners as their consultant and have recently organized as a group, appointing John McCaffrey, President Arlington Firefighters Union, as the chairman. Mrs. Galkowski said that they have held several meetings and have hinted that they would be interested in forming a public employee committee. The town would be in favor of such a committee for the purpose of joining the GIC and will further explore this with the group. Additionally, the town has asked the MIIA to provide a quote to the Town for joining this joint health insurance purchasing group.

Mr. Sharry, Arlington's health care consultant, consults for 180 municipalities, 20 of which have joined the GIC and he cautions to not judge the GIC by the number of communities who join. He feels that Arlington is moving in the right direction, with management and unions working together trying to cut insurance costs. Mr. Shari stated that the BCBS Blue Choice plan is the plan that is hurting the Town now.

Ms. LaCourt moved approval.

SO VOTED (4-0)

SO VOTED (4-0)

3. CITIZENS OPEN FORUM

There were no matters presented for consideration of the Board.

TRAFFIC RULES & ORDERS /OTHER BUSINESS

4. **Approval: “No Parking” and “Dangerous Curve Ahead” Signs on Brattle Street**

Frederick Ryan, Police Chief

Mr. Hurd moved approval.

SO VOTED (4-0)

SO VOTED (4-0)

5. **Discussion: Leash Law Enforcement Issues at Robbins Farm Park**

Susan Bernhard

Mona Zefitel

Susan Bernhard, 30 Eustis St., Claire Levine, 52 Fountain Rd., Mike McPhail, 47 Robbins Rd., Mona Zefitel, 11 Murray St., Nancy Rhoades, 42 Robbins Rd., Ginny Wedge, 90 Grandview Rd., and Michael Quinn, 15 Shawnee Rd. presented reasons why they would like to have their dogs off-leash at Robbins Farm and that it is causing overreactions from other residents/abutters and the Animal Control Officer. They stated they are reasonable residents, but are getting fed up with this law and believe that off-leash designated areas would improve the law for both groups; an 87 signature petition was presented for off-leash use.

Some of the reasons mentioned for off-leash use were: the law is outdated, it offers socialization for pets and owners, it allows exercise for pets, the Farm offers a large space for dog running, all pet waste is picked up by owner, other trash is also picked up by dog owners-actually they act as a preventive force and that the dogs are part of a solution not the problem, and there is no cost to allowing this usage.

The Selectmen think the reasons for off-leash use sound reasonable, but agree it is a complicated issue. They would like this group to work with Green Dog to come up with a plan for off-leash dog recreation and also attend the Green Dog meetings at the Senior Center the last Thursday night in October and the four Thursdays nights in November. The Selectmen also stated their support for the Animal Control Officer for the work he is doing in Town, and it was noted that he had been called to the Farm with complaints multiple times. There is a leash law and when complaints are called in, he must investigate and uphold the laws.

After more discussion from off-leash proponents and the Selectmen it was decided that Mr. Hurd would act as a go-between/mediator when both groups, off-leash proponents and on-leash proponents, meet to work out their differences.

Mr. Hurd stated that until the time the leash law is changed it is the Selectmen's expectation that the off-leash proponents will abide by Arlington's current leash law. All Selectmen agreed that going forward everyone needed to compromise and they strongly encouraged this group to be positive and proactive for the betterment of the dogs.

Correspondence Received

Amy Medeiros Traffic Light Request @Park Ave., Paul Revere Rd. and Be Rec'd
3 Paul Revere Rd. Wollaston Ave.

Beth Soltzberg Invitation to Teosinte Talk and Slide Show Be Rec'd
Teosinte Sister City Project

Ms. LaCourt moved to refer Ms. Medeiros' letter to TAC. SO VOTED (4-0)
Mr. Hurd moved receipt of correspondence. SO VOTED (4-0)

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. LaCourt commented that she was emailed by Gregg Favalora, 42 Peirce St., traffic concern and sign request to TAC for recommendation.

Ms. LaCourt moved approval.

SO VOTED (4-0)

Ms. LaCourt also encouraged residents to become volunteers for Arlington Council on Aging- contact Bill Murphy at the Senior Center, phone # 781-316-3400.

Mr. Hurd announced that anyone who needs to apply for fuel assistance should contact Christine Sharkey at the Board of Health tel#781 316-3170.

Mr. Hurd reported that the Mass. Ave. Corridor Meeting went well and was attended by about 60 people. The next meeting will be October 23, 2008.

Mr. Hurd expressed concern over medical operations at the Symmes Hill and thought the CVS proposal at Hodgden Noyes property might fit well at Symmes Hill. The Redevelopment Board will be discussing the CVS proposal at their next meeting, which is October 20th the same as the next Board of Selectmen meeting. Ms. Rowe said she would contact Mr. Andrew West to discuss the meeting and also thought the Selectmen meeting could begin at 8:15 p.m. on October 20th so that the Selectmen could attend the Redevelopment meeting. Ms. Rice was going to look into if some of the monies put aside for medical development at Symmes could be used in this case.

Mr. Hurd reported that it was brought to his attention re: the last meeting agenda item, On Street Overnight Parking, Taylor Mitchell, 5 Trowbridge Street, that it was stipulated no parking in Mr. Mitchell's lease agreement.

Mrs. Mahon announced that the Summer Street Neighborhood raised about \$1,000.00 for the Arlington food pantry.

Mrs. Mahon thanked Mrs. Galkowski for the IT Director update and asked if Mr. Sullivan would update them on the recycle coordinator.

Mrs. Mahon will work with Ms. Rowe and meet with Mr. Skidmore to arrange the student government representatives to be a part of the warrant article process.

Mrs. Mahon announced that Officer Hogan and police dog, Dasty, would be featured on the Discovery Channel on October 25th at 8:00p.m.

Ms. Rowe reported that the Minuteman Bikeway Celebration on October 5th went well with its being inducted into the national Rails-To-Trails Conservancy Bikeway Hall of Fame as one of the top 25 paths in the country.

Ms. Rowe told the Selectmen that Ms. Burns, Chairman of the School Committee, had contacted her regarding regionalization of local government aspects and the possibility of researching it further together. Christine Sharkey, the Board of Health Director, has been working on a similar regionalization for health. It was decided to plan a future conference regarding regionalization.

Mr. Hurd moved to adjourn at 9:10 p.m.

SO VOTED (4-0)

A True Record: Attest

Mary Ann Sullivan

Next meeting of BOS October 20, 2008