



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

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Selectmen's Minutes 03-20-2006

TOWN OF ARLINGTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Meeting Minutes
 Monday, March 20, 2006
 7:15 p.m.

Present: Mr. Hurd, Chair, Mrs. Dias, Vice Chair, Mr. Greeley, Mrs. Mahon, and Ms. LaCourt.
 Also present: Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Maher, and Mrs. Krepelka/Mary Ann Sullivan.

FOR APPROVAL

Minutes of Meeting: February 27, 2006, March 13, 2006
 Mrs. Mahon moved approval.

SO VOTED (5-0)

LICENSES & PERMITS

2. Request: Change of Manager

Seth Caplan, Not Your Average Joe's, 645 Mass. Ave.
 Mr. Greeley moved approval.

SO VOTED (5-0)

3. Request: Use of Jefferson Cutter House and Minuteman Bike Way, Activate Arlington Moving Day Walk, 4/8/06, 10 am - noon

Donna Sullivan, Active Arlington Committee Member

Mrs. Sullivan and Leslie Mayer appeared before the Board of Selectmen requesting permission to use the Jefferson Cutter House and the Minuteman Bike Way for the second Annual Moving Day Walk on Saturday, April 8th at 10:00 a.m. Mrs. Sullivan stated that it is the second year of a grant for a continuing health and wellness program. She stated that they would be lots of gift certificates donated by local businesses and urges everyone to get out and join them on April 8th.

Mrs. Mahon moved approval.

SO VOTED (5-0)

4. CITIZENS OPEN FORUM

These matters were presented for consideration of the Board.

Gordon Jamieson, 163 Scituate Street, appeared before the Board and presented a Budget Chart showing analysis of each budget going up 4 percent.

Bill Burke, Old Colony Lane, Precinct 17, appeared before the Board regarding the late hour of skaters renting the Veterans Memorial Rink. Many of the area residents have been awoken at 2:00 a.m. from the noise coming from the rink. He asked that the Board find out what is going on and rectify the situation. He is not against people playing hockey, but is upset at the noise they make when leaving the rink, etc. The Board asked the Town Manager to investigate and report back.

8:00 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING

5. Discussion: Ballot Question on Liquor Licenses

John F. Maher, Town Counsel

Marc Sachs, 42 Academy Street, spoke in favor of more wine & beer licenses and all alcohol licenses for restaurants but cautioned the Board relative to the many issues that could arise with all alcohol liquor stores. He has a lot of expertise with the wine business and would be happy to assist the Board in anyway he can.

Mr. Greeley moved receipt of report. SO VOTED (5-0)

TRAFFIC RULES & ORDERS/OTHER BUSINESS

6. Update: School Technology

Steven Mazzola

Mr. Mazzola appeared before the Board and stated that the goal of this technology upgrade program is to afford students and staff at the Stratton and Thompson schools access to technology consistent with that offered in other Arlington elementary schools. The inclusion of updated resources is an important part of ensuring students develop technology skills on par with others in the district. It will also provide teacher's access to important curriculum resources and the opportunity to improve their own technology skills.

Mr. Mazzola stated that in August 2005, he met with Alan Brown, Principal of Stratton and Michael McCabe, Principal of Thompson to discuss a course of action, which would bring updated services to their respective schools. Since then, several discussions have taken place with school staff and Nate Levenson. During those discussions, information was gathered as to what the most appropriate technology program would be for each building. The program is divided into a three-year process to allow for a smooth upgrade, taking into account time and financial constraints. It is important for the project timeline to reflect the realities of available staff, building access, and financing. A specific timeline will be developed in early April. The planned technology improvements are:

1. Teacher Computers and Printers
2. Student Computers, Grades 3-5
3. Upgraded Computer Lab
4. Mobile Classroom Projection Equipment

Mrs. Mahon asked that this item be back on the Agenda for April 3rd.

Mr. Greeley moved receipt of report. SO VOTED (5-0)

7. Request: Payment of Bill

Legal Services-Cable License Renewal (8/10/05 thru 3/9/06)

Mr. Greeley moved approval. SO VOTED (5-0)

8. **WARRANT ARTICLE HEARINGS**

Article 13 Bylaw Amendment/Recycling (tabled from 2/27)

Mr. Gordon Jamieson, 163 Scituate Street, appeared before Board.

Mr. Greeley moved to postpone until April 3, 2006. SO VOTED (5-0)

Article 14 Bylaw Amendment/Notice of Hearings and Meetings (tabled from 2/27)

The Board asked the Town Manager to encourage all Boards, Commissions, and Committees to post notice of their meetings on the Town website. Mr. Sullivan stated that with over 100 boards, commissions and committees, it is very difficult for everyone to post to the website. Many of the committees have volunteer members that do not have access to the website.

Mrs. Elise Fiore, Precinct 2, 58 Mott Street, stated that she would like to see better information on the website regarding

meetings and agendas.

Mrs. Mahon moved no action. SO VOTED (5-0)

Regarding the following warrant articles: Mr. Maher stated certain members are in a conflict so he declared that "a rule of necessity" is invoked so that all Selectmen can vote.

Mr. Hurd and Mr. Greeley stated that they are participants in the benefits program. Mrs. Mahon and Ms. LaCourt stated that they are participants under their husbands benefits program.

Article 21 Home Rule Legislation/Retirement Allowances for Part-Time Officials

Mr. Greeley moved no action. SO VOTED (5-0)

Article 22 Home Rule Legislation/Part-Time Elected Officials Healthcare Benefits

Ms. LaCourt commented that this benefit is a much larger expense to the Town versus the retirement allowance. Ms. LaCourt believes the benefits for part-time officials should be modified, that it is a question of leadership and this is the appropriate thing to do while the Town is under extreme physical constraints. There was discussion on the amount of time spent being a Selectmen, Ms. LaCourt feels it's less than 19 hours and Mr. Hurd, Mr. Greeley and Mrs. Mahon believe it's more due to phone calls, committee, and sub-committee meetings. Mrs. Mahon stated she feels this is a difficult decision and it is difficult defining her employment terms with the Town of Arlington. Mr. Maher cautioned that the Town Meeting vote and language of the Home-Rule would have to be very specific including defining which officials to be included and that it could be very difficult to pass in legislation.

Mr. Greeley moved no action. SO VOTED (3-1-1)

Ms. LaCourt voted in the negative.

Mrs. Mahon abstained from voting.

Article 25 Home Rule Legislation/Exemption and Deferral Information

Mrs. Mahon moved no action. SO VOTED (5-0)

Ms. LaCourt asked for this to be considered as a policy.

Article 31 Establish/State Aid Task Force Committee

Mrs. Dias pointed out the need to have the legislatures involved with the Selectmen and Town business. Mr. Hurd said this legislative communication is a major component of our five-year plan and that having a lobbyist group on our behalf is a good idea. Ms. LaCourt thought this group is a good way to seek out lobby opportunities to bring to the Selectmen's attention.

Mrs. Mahon moved favorable action. SO VOTED (5-0)

Article 33 Services to Non-Profits

Gordon Jamieson, 163 Scituate Street, appeared before the Board requesting what services we provide for all non-profits.

The Board asked the Town Manager to provide them with a list of all non-profits and services provided. The Board also stated that said list should be available to Town Meeting and all citizens who request it.

Mr. Greeley moved no action. SO VOTED (5-0)

Article 34 Enlarge Pleasant Street Historic District

Mr. Makowka, Chairman, Historic District, and Mrs. Fiore spoke on behalf of protecting these 8 homes. Mr. Makowka said he has approval signatures on 6 of the 8 homes and knows no opposition from the other 2 homes. Mr. Greeley requested that he get the remaining 2 signatures.

Mr. Greeley moved favorable action. SO VOTED (5-0)

Article 35 Revolving Funds

Mr. Maher explained that this is the usual article but also includes other departments asking for consideration.

Mr. Greeley moved favorable action except one revolving fund-the field user fee, which will be tabled until the 4/3/06 meeting to include budget talks. SO VOTED (5-0)

Ms. LaCourt requested Mr. Maher adjust the revolving funds prior to Town Meeting. Mr. Maher will work with Mrs. Krepelka on adjusting the revolving funds.

Article 37 Authority to File for Grants

Mr. Greeley moved favorable action. SO VOTED (5-0)

Article 52 Permissive Legislation
Mrs. Mahon moved no action. SO VOTED (5-0)

Article 53 Establish Special Education Account
Mrs. Mahon moved to table until 4/3/06. SO VOTED (5-0)

Article 54 Local Option Taxes
Mrs. Mahon moved no action. SO VOTED (5-0)

Article 55 Appropriation/Geographic Information System
Mr. Maher pointed out to the Selectmen that this is a main motion of the Finance Committee. Mr. John Belskis, Precinct 18, and Mrs. Patricia Worden, Precinct 8, spoke on behalf of adjusting and justifying the 40B number for the Town of Arlington. They believe that Arlington should remain less dense and ask the Selectmen for their support. Mr. O'Brien commented that the 40B number is correct and the Planning Department has explained the reason for the number but if the Selectmen want him to work with a committee, he'll do so.
Mrs. Mahon moved favorable action. SO VOTED (4-1)
Ms. LaCourt voted in the negative.

Article 57 Home Rule Legislation/Senior Citizen Program
Mr. John Jope spoke on behalf of reinstating this senior program, which enhanced municipal services in past years.
Mrs. Mahon moved favorable action. SO VOTED (5-0)

Article 65 Alternatives Regarding Elementary School Program
Mr. Ron Spengler, Precinct 15, spoke on behalf of educational equity and that this article supports good faith in attempts to updating the last 2 schools.
Ms. LaCourt moved favorable action. SO VOTED (5-0)

Article 66 Resolution/Scenic Byway
Mrs. Mahon moved favorable action. SO VOTED (5-0)

Article 67 Positive Parenting Resolution
Ms. Suzanne Lawrence spoke for this warrant article citing the benefits of non-corporal punishment to children. Both Brookline, MA and Chicago, IL have passed this resolution and she requested that the Selectmen move favorable action. After discussion, the Selectmen agreed that in principle that all agreed with the content but disagreed it should be a by law in Town. The Selectmen do not want to tell residents "how to parent", yet suggested utilizing religious and educational arenas to communicate the message.
Ms. LaCourt moved no action. SO VOTED (5-0)

9. **FINAL VOTES & COMMENTS**

Warrant Articles 18 – 20, 23 - 32

Mrs. Mahon moved approval except Warrant Article 35 to be revisited on the 4/3/06 meeting.
SO VOTED (5-0)

Correspondence Received

Marie A. Krepelka Wine Bottle remaining amount/take home ABCC rules Be Rec'd
Board Administrator

Rosemary Mattuck Support for plowing the Minuteman Bikepath Be Rec'd
52 Margaret St.

Kathleen Moriarty Rail trail and cross country skiing Be Rec'd
59 Lowell St.

Gary Olson Coalition bargaining Be Rec'd
55 Varnum St.

Bob Sprague Minutes request Be Rec'd
150 Washington St.

Mrs. Mahon moved receipt of correspondence.

SO VOTED (5-0)

NEW BUSINESS

The Selectmen said good- bye to Mrs. Dias and thanked her for her many years of service on the Board of Selectmen.

Mrs. Mahon thanked the School Committee for passing out the budget book to the Selectmen and reminded everyone that March 27th is the last public meeting and March 28th is the School Committee vote.

Ms. LaCourt will be part of the CDBG sub-committee to review grant requests.

Ms. LaCourt asked if the Selectmen votes and comments could be published on the web site for the public to read.

Mr. Hurd asked that a letter be sent to the Archdiocesan requesting that the last parcel of land at St. Jerome's not be sold- it is environmentally sensitive.

Mrs. Dias moved approval to send letter.

SO VOTED (5-0)

Mr. Greeley reminded everyone to get out and vote and also that Mr. Hurd is running for re-election and how steadfast Mr. Hurd has been in having "all people be heard".

Mr. Maher, Town Counsel, requested that the Board convene in executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy in respect to litigation where an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the government's bargaining or litigating position.

Mr. Greeley moved to convene into executive session at 10:50 p.m. for the above purpose.

Roll call:

Mr. Hurd yes
Mrs. Dias yes
Mrs. Greeley yes
Mrs. Mahon yes
Ms. LaCourt yes

Mrs. Mahon moved to adjourn executive session and reconvene to the Selectmen meeting.

Roll call:

Mr. Hurd yes
Mrs. Dias yes
Mrs. Dias yes
Mrs. Mahon yes
Ms. LaCourt yes

The Board returned to open session at 11:26 p.m.

Mr. Greeley moved to adjourn at 11:27 p.m.

SO VOTED (5-0)

A True Record: Attest:

Marie A. Krepelka
Board Administrator