

ARTICLE 6 -
SELF SERVE STATION
REGULATIONS



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Precinct 8 - For the Proponent

Warrant Article 6 - Self Service Station Regulations

Self Service Station are controlled by Town Bylaw - Title V – Regulations Upon the Use of Private Property, Article 5 Self Service Gas Dispensing - which currently reads:

Section 1. Restriction on Sale

No filling station shall allow the pumping of gasoline for retail sale by any person other than an authorized attendant employee of said filling station.

Section 2. Customer Pumping Prohibited

No attendant at any gasoline station shall permit any non-employee to pump gasoline or engage in any distribution of gasoline within the station.

This is a complete ban on self service motor fuel stations in Arlington

Proposed Language Will Allow Self Service of Motor Fuels

We are asking Town Meeting to amend Title V – by deleting the current Article 5 in its entirety and substitute in its place the following:

Article 5 Self-service petroleum filling station regulations.

Section 1. The dispensing of motor fuel by means of self-service automated dispensing systems shall be permitted at any authorized filling station, so long as there is at least one full-service attendant employee dispensing system available at said station. All installations shall comply with the regulations promulgated by the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations in the Commonwealth.

Section 2. Each self-service automated dispensing system shall display a clear warning label explaining that burning gasoline, diesel and ethanol has major consequences on human health and on the environment, including contributing to climate change.

Article 6 – is good for the consumer and the station owner

- This Warrant Article which received 62 signatures, ***requires that there be at least one full-service attendant employee dispensing nozzle*** available at all self-serve stations.
- Why Self-serve? Allowing self-service gas stations in Arlington has many benefits, one of the benefits would be an ***upgrade and rehabilitation of the stations to a more modern and inviting street scape***.
- A self-service option is also a benefit to the consumer. Stations will be able to stay open later as they hopefully will be able to hire more employees. Currently Eli's is relying upon retirees for the purpose of pumping gas. No high school kids want these jobs as they did in the old days.
- It is faster, you can get out quicker when you pump it yourself.

Self-Serve are the local Small Business Owners



Local
Owners

Most likely only the owner occupied stations would be willing to make an investment to rehab their station to bring it up to code, i.e., automatic fire suppressant systems, new pumps, point of sale systems, canopy and islands.



Corporate
Owners

Arlington gas stations are not all independent small owner-occupied businesses. Several are chains or are corporate operations that lease to local operators.

Arlington has 10 filling stations.

- There are 10 gas stations in Arlington, we have spoken to 9, right now only 3, the locally owned and operated stations are interested in the possibly of converting to self serve.
- To convert to self-serve will require an investment of \$200,000 to \$300,000, for the upgrades to the islands, canopy, point of sale system and fire suppression systems.



All of which have associated service bays.







Eli owns a self serve station in Revere which he and his son have renovated and upgraded.



We also have 5 Electric Vehicle Charging Stations - NONE OF WHICH ARE FULL SERVE



None of which have service bays, one is attached to a grocery store and one is right here at our Town Hall.



Moving into the future and fuel dispensing equity

- There is a disconnect between our fueling requirement for internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicle and electric vehicles (EV).
- For ICE we now require that there be a service station associated with the fuel dispensing operations as well as an attendant.
- For EV there are no such requirements.
- We should be helping out locally owned small businesses and providing them with all possible opportunities that we can to help them to stay in business.
- The mark up on gasoline is 8 or 12 cents per gallon. That small net markup barely pays the attendant's \$17.00 to \$20.00 hourly wage.
- It takes over 200 gallons of gas, per hour, just to pay for one hour of attendant time. This attendant could be doing other productive work for the station if self service is allowed.
- We should not put additional restrictions upon these local business owners such as requiring them to maintain service bays and prohibiting a convenience as the proposed amendment is advocating.

Full service option will remain

The elderly and disabled are currently treated just like everyone else at Arlington service stations and this will not change under this proposed bylaw change which is in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Massachusetts Gas Station Law G.L. c. 94, 295CC.

- These require self-serve gas stations to provide equal access to their customers with disabilities.
- If necessary to provide access, gas stations must:
 - * Provide refueling assistance upon the request of an individual with a disability.
 - * Let patrons know (e.g., through appropriate signs) that customers with disabilities can obtain refueling assistance by either honking or otherwise signaling an employee.
- * **The proposed Bylaw takes this one step further** and would allow self service so long as there is at least one full-service attendant employee dispensing system available, if anyone does not want to use self service then an attendant will come on out and pump your fuel for you.



PLEASE VOTE YES ON ARTICLE 6

and NO on the Amendment
