



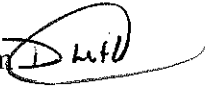
**Town of Arlington  
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**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Board of Selectmen

FROM: Douglas W. Heim 

DATE: March 31, 2016

RE: **Votes and Comments for Articles: 21, 30, 59 and revised Vote and Comment  
Re: Article 24**

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I write to provide the Board the following as draft Final Votes and Comments for your consideration at the April 4, 2016 Board of Selectmen meeting regarding the previously heard, above-referenced warrant articles.

**ARTICLE 21      BYLAW AMENDMENT/ARLINGTON COMMISSION ON ARTS  
AND CULTURE MEMBERSHIP**

***VOTED:***      *That Title II, Article 8, Section 1 of the Town Bylaws be and hereby is amended by striking the word "seven" in the first paragraph and replacing it with the word "nine;" and further by striking the word "Six" in the first sentence of the second paragraph and replacing it with the word "Eight" so as to read as follows in relevant parts:*

## **ARTICLE 8: ARLINGTON COMMISSION ON ARTS AND CULTURE**

### ***Section 1. Establishment of Arlington Commission on Arts and Culture***

*There is hereby established an Arlington Commission on Arts and Culture, which shall consist of ~~seven~~ nine members all of whom shall be residents of the Town.*

*~~Six~~ Eight members, one of whom shall be a member of the Vision 2020 Culture and Recreation Task Group, shall be appointed by the Town Manager subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen and one member shall be appointed by the School Committee...*

(5-0)

**COMMENT:** This article requests a bylaw amendment to provide the Arlington Commission on Arts and Culture ("ACAC") with two (2) additional members, both to be appointed by the Town Manager, subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen. ACAC requests the change in their membership for two reasons. First, ACAC is developing a cultural plan for Arlington, and also applying to the Massachusetts Cultural Council ("MCC") for a Cultural District designation. Both the cultural plan process and Cultural District process would benefit from additional members' efforts and talents.

Second, on a broader level, ACAC believes it would benefit from a larger Commission's additional voices and perspectives. The Selectmen value ACAC's work and endeavors and trust its assessment of its own needs. Accordingly, the Board respectfully requests Town Meeting's support for this straightforward bylaw amendment.

## **ARTICLE 24**

### **BYLAW AMENDMENT/ CAMPING PROHIBITED ON PUBLIC PROPERTY**

**VOTED:** That no action be taken under Article 24

(5-0)

**COMMENT:** Following multiple hearings on this warrant article, significant and diverse input from a host of Town committees and commissions, community groups, and concerned residents was received regarding the impact the proposed bylaw would have upon the homeless in Arlington. Specifically, the Arlington Human Rights Commission ("AHRC"), among many others, believes that more information regarding the extent and nature of the challenges facing the homeless should be cultivated prior to the adoption of any Town bylaw establishing a broad prohibition on camping. The Police Department, Health and Human Services Department, and other Town personnel welcome the aforementioned stakeholders to work with them to examine

the pertinent issues further, and share this Board's commitment to a robust and inclusive assessment of the needs of a vulnerable population.

Accordingly, this Board recommends a vote of no action with the understanding that we will establish a Task Force of the Board of Selectmen to investigate and report on the profile of Arlington's unsheltered, the resources available to assist the homeless, and the challenges posed to the community by encampments prior to next year's Town Meeting. The Task Force will also be charged with consulting the Somerville Homeless Coalition and developing feasible tools to balance support of the unsheltered with the health and safety concerns of the community at-large.

**ARTICLE 30                                      TRANSFER OF TOWN PROPERTY/1 GILBOA ROAD**

**VOTED:            That no action be taken under Article 25.**

**(3-0)**

**Mr. Dunn recused himself; Ms. Mahon abstained.**

**COMMENT:** The Board of Selectmen appreciates the indisputable good intentions of the Article's proponent, which are to provide additional affordable housing in Arlington while also bolstering the Town's safe harbor status relative to G.L. c. 40B applications. However, the balance of the Board does not believe that the proposed transfer of the property in question to the Arlington Housing Authority is the best vehicle by which we can achieve either of those goals can be achieved, especially given the substantial opposition of Mt. Gilboa neighborhood residents.

ARTICLE 59

RESOLUTION/HANDICAP PARKING SPACES

VOTED: *Arlington Town Meeting is hereby resolved as follows:*

*Given that Title II of the ADA does require that State and Municipalities must make all their programs and services accessible, and on-street parking is considered a public service, thus some number of accessible parking spaces are required to be accessible. Yet there is currently no precise number specified.*

*Given that the Town of Arlington should visibly be a community that welcomes diversity, including people with disabilities,*

*Given that U.S. Census figures, Vision 2020 Survey results, and Registry of Motor Vehicles statistics all verify a substantial (and growing) need for handicapped parking access in the Town of Arlington,*

*Given that demographic projections indicate that the residents of Arlington and surrounding communities will continue to need public handicapped parking in order to access the many retail and service establishments located in Arlington,*

*Therefore, so as to facilitate access for people with disabilities, the Town of Arlington embraces, supports and encourages the inclusion and designation of at least five percent (5%), and no more than ten percent (10%) overall, handicapped parking spaces in any on-street public parking located in commercial districts throughout the Massachusetts Avenue and Broadway business corridors, which encompasses Business Districts B1, 2, 3, 4, 5.*

(5-0)

**COMMENT:** The Board unanimously supports the instant resolution, which is the product of thorough engagement of various community interest groups and Town Departments, and sets forth important, aspirational goals for the Town to enhance its support of disabled members of the community. These goals go further than state and federal law presently mandate. While not binding upon the Town, the resolution constitutes an affirmation of our commitments to improving access throughout Arlington's busiest corridor and a proactive way of informing future decisions.