



Select Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, January 22, 2024

Time: 7:15PM

Location: Members of the public may access the hybrid meeting via the Select Board Chambers, Zoom, or ACMI

Present: Mr. Helmuth, Chair, Mr. Hurd, Vice Chair, Mrs. Mahon, Mr. DeCoursey, Mr. Diggins

Also Present: Mr. Feeney, Mr. Cunningham, Ms. Maher

1. Legislative Provision for Remote Participation

Mr. Helmuth opened the meeting by stating that tonight's meeting is being conducted via Zoom, is being recorded and is also being simultaneously broadcasted on ACMI. Because all members are present, votes will be taken by voice unless a roll call is required. Persons wishing to join the meeting by Zoom may find information on how to do so on the Town's website. Persons participating by Zoom are reminded that they may be visible to others and then if you wish to participate, you are asked to provide your full name in the interest of developing a record of the meeting. Further, all participants are advised that people may be listening who do not provide comment, and those persons are not required to identify themselves. Finally, both Zoom participants and people watching on ACMI can follow the posted agenda materials, also found on the Town's website using the Novus agenda platform.

2. FY2024 First Quarter Financial Report

Ida Cody, Comptroller

Ms. Cody appeared before the Board to present the first quarter financial report for fiscal year 2024. Ms. Cody stated that the budget is on track as we are around 25% of both revenue and expenditures for both the general fund and all enterprise funds. Ms. Cody stated that this report has three parts which were described in detail. First is narrative, where they explain the variances between the estimated and actual expenses. The second is a summary of the total expenditures and the expense rate of the revenue collection by department. The final part is the Munis report, which is a direct printout with more detail. Ms. Cody detailed each part of the budget by line explaining the discrepancies, if any. After some questions from the Board, members thanked Ms. Cody for the report.

Mrs. Mahon moved receipt.

SO VOTED (5-0)

3. Presentation: Fox Library

Anna Litten, Director

Anna Litten, Director of Libraries, along with Adam Delmolino, Library Board of Trustees, appeared before the Board to share an update on the Fox Branch Library. Ms. Litten stated that Arlington has a long proud history of providing excellent library services. The East Branch Library opened in the Crosby School, now the Lesley Ellis School, in 1917. Since then, library services have been an important part of the community. Ms. Litten explained that circulation at this branch has been steadily increasing over the years; 196% from 2013. Ms. Litten explained that not only does the annual visitor count continue to rise, but they are seeing different kinds of people who seek access to the library and unfortunately, it is not accessible for all. Mr. Delmolino noted that while the Fox Library is an important resource for the community, the building has never welcomed all in Arlington. The step at the main entrance is the first barrier anyone with a mobility device face. Once inside the building, events for families in the lower level are not welcome to users of wheelchairs or other mobility devices as there is no elevator to reach that floor. In addition, the adult restrooms are also located on the lower level. Mr. Delmolino noted that in Arlington, we pride ourselves on creating an equitable community, but this important community meeting space fails to meet our legal obligations and welcome all residents. Mr. Delmolino noted that in the spring of 2023 when the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners announced a new round of grants for the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program, the Town submitted a letter of intent to apply for the funds. Ms. Litten further noted that this grant can cover up to 50% of eligible costs for construction projects. The Town contracted with Library Planning Associates to complete a "Library Building Program," based on extensive community feedback. Ms. Litten stated that as required by the grant, Town Meeting will be voting on a warrant article. The Board thanked Ms. Litten and Mr. Delmolino for the presentation and look forward to this unique opportunity to help the Fox Library meet standards and be welcoming to all Arlington residents.

Mr. DeCoursey moved receipt.

SO VOTED (5-0)

CONSENT AGENDA

4. Reappointments

Board of Health

Marie Walsh Condon (term to expire: 01/31/2027)

Conservation Commission

David White (term to expire: 01/31/2027)

Constable

Roland Demers (term to expire: 01/31/2027)

Cemetery Commission

William McCarthy (term to expire: 01/31/2027)

Brian Hasbrouck (term to expire: 01/31/2027)

Disability Commission

Grace Carpenter (term to expire: 01/31/2027)

Kerrie Fallon (term to expire: 01/31/2027)

Equal Opportunity Advisory Committee

Kate Bender (term to expire: 01/31/2027)

Jack Jones (term to expire: 01/31/2027)

Augusta Haydock (term to expire: 01/31/2027)

Historical Commission

JoAnn Robinson (term to expire: 01/31/2027)

Pamela Meister (term to expire: 01/31/2027)

Human Rights Commission

Kristen Bauer (term to expire: 01/31/2027)

Library Board of Trustees

Amy Hampe (term to expire: 01/31/2027)

Adam Delmolino (term to expire: 01/31/2027)

Park and Recreation Commission

Leslie Mayer (term to expire: 01/31/2027)

LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission

Kari Sasportas (term to expire: 01/31/2027)

Molly Gillis (term to expire: 01/31/2027)

Lisa Krinsky (term to expire: 01/31/2027)

Arlington Redevelopment Board

Kin Lau (term to expire: 01/31/2027)

Veterans Council

Steven Sawtelle (term to expire: 01/31/2027)

5. Black History Month Banners

Crystal Haynes, Arlington Human Rights Commissioner

Mr. Diggins moved approval.

SO VOTED (5-0)

6. Request: Special (One Day) Beer & Wine License, 02/02, 02/09, 02/16, 02/23, 03/01, 03/08, 03/15, 03/22, 03/29, 04/05, 04/12, 04/19, 04/26, @ The Roasted Granola Cafe for Pop Up Taproom

Matt Guernsey

Arlington Brewing Company

This item was removed from the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Guernsey appeared before the Board and stated that he is seeking the Boards approval for another round of special one day beer and wine events to be located at the Roasted Granola. Mr. Guernsey noted that the only change to this application would be that instead of multiple nights in a weekend this would be Friday's only for a number of months.

The Board thanked Mr. Guernsey for appearing before the Board but noted that they are concerned regarding the number of days being requested. If the applicant would like to have more events throughout the year, they will be impeding on the 30 day per year maximum for special one day licenses as set forth by the ABCC. The Board suggested approving only February to allow the applicant to return to the Board at a later date to consider not using all the licenses at once. Attorney Cunningham noted that he will provide the Board with a more complete analysis of the statute however, noted that the enabling statute Chapter 138 Section 14 does contemplate the 30 permissible licenses for an individual applicant. Mr. Cunningham stated that it is a reasonable interpretation of the statute that the 30 days is either a person or entity and believes it would be an unreasonable interpretation, that statute allows a particular entity to put forward 10 different persons and essentially be granted licenses for every day of the year.

Mr. Guernsey stated that he would like to move forward with the existing application for 13 individual special one-day licenses. The Board noted that they are okay moving forward with the understanding that the 13 days could go towards the maximum of 30.

Mr. DeCoursey moved approval.

SO VOTED (5-0)

OPEN FORUM

No members of the public appeared.

TRAFFIC RULES & ORDERS / OTHER BUSINESS

7. No Parking Signage on Wildwood Ave

Jim Feeney, Town Manager

Mr. Feeney appeared before the Board and stated that a memo was prepared by Senior Transportation Planner, John Alessi, that is part of the Board's reference. Highlighted in the memo it was at the Select Board's October 11, 2023, meeting, members referred to the Town Manager's Office a resident request to extend No Parking signage on the north side of Wildwood Avenue from Churchill Avenue to Bartlett Ave. No Parking signage currently exists on the north side of Wildwood Avenue from Lockeland Avenue to Churchill Avenue. Mr. Feeney noted that Town Staff reviewed materials provided by the resident and consulted with the Arlington Police Department. No existing safety issues have been reported along this stretch of roadway in recent years. A site visit determined that the roadway does become particularly narrow when parking use is at its peak. At such times, vehicles in either direction must pull over and yield to oncoming traffic. It was also noted that this can become more difficult when larger vehicles such as school buses or delivery trucks are present. Based on the aforementioned findings and the fact that a majority of abutters support this request, Town Staff recommends the Board vote to approve the following:

- That No Parking be allowed on the north side of Wildwood Avenue between Churchill Avenue and Bartlett Avenue, as indicated by the installation of appropriate Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) series signage.
- Amendment to Schedule I: Parking, of the Town of Arlington Traffic Rules and Orders, indicated below:

LOCATION	SIDE	FROM	TO	TYPE PARKING
Wildwood Ave.	Both North	Coleman Rd. Churchill Ave Bartlett Ave	Pt 25 Ft. Easterly Lockeland Ave.	No Parking No Parking

The following members of the public spoke:

Geoffrey Brahmer, 30 Newman Way

Noelle Dyer, 15 Wildwood Avenue

Mrs. Mahon moved approval that no parking be allowed on the north side of Wildwood Avenue between Churchill Avenue and Bartlett Avenue and further move an amendment to Schedule I: Parking in the Traffic Rules and Orders as indicated in the memo.

SO VOTED (5-0)

8. Update: Parmenter School Building

Jim Feeney, Town Manager

Mr. Feeney stated that as Members of the Board are likely aware, the Menotomy Preschool program has re-opened on the Arlington High School campus with the completion of Phase 2. With this move, the space they formerly occupied at the Parmenter School Building is now vacant. The vacant space consists of the front building with its entrance nearest Irving St., which was the original structure on the site. The rear building

comprising the ell-shaped addition is presently leased to longtime tenant Arlington Children's Center (ACC), who will remain at the site. Mr. Feeney noted that it is his intention to move the Arlington Recreation Department and its Kid Care program to the now vacant space at the site. Presently, the preschool program operates out of a private storefront rented on Mass Ave in East Arlington, while the afterschool program shares space at Gibbs Middle School. The existing arrangements are not without operational challenges; the shared space arrangement can lend itself to scheduling conflicts with school events, and the private lease provides limited square footage while costing approximately \$50,000/year, with future escalators. Mr. Feeney noted that this re-use of the Parmenter School Building was made possible due to the accessibility-focused renovations undertaken in 2020 as part of the Arlington High School Building Project. The Recreation Department's administration will mostly vacate the office space, save for a rink management presence, inconveniently located at the Ed Burns Arena and move into the offices that were constructed during the 2020 renovation; options to activate or re-purpose the vacated space at the Ed Burns Arena will be considered. Preliminary plans include moving skate rental operations to the current administrative office space therefore separating it from the concession stand. The larger office space may be converted into a meeting room and rental space for birthday parties or similar activities.

Mr. Hurd moved approval.

SO VOTED (5-0)

9. Resident Petition for Park Avenue Pedestrian Safety Improvements

Rev. Leah Lyman Waldron, Pastor of Park Avenue Congregational Church, along with Joseph Solomon appeared before the Board to present their resident petition to request the Town of Arlington take action prior to the end 2024 to resolve ongoing safety issues along the Park Avenue corridor between Route 2 and Downing Square. The petition before the Board is signed by a number of stakeholders in the community with over 1000 residents. When the petition was open it gave people the opportunity to give open feedback and a number of people stated that even if not involved in a crash, being in this area and experiencing this has impacted them regardless. Mr. Solomon further noted that a number of people do not feel safe in their community. In addressing this ongoing issue, the petition states that they are eager to see:

- significant improvements in safety for all users of this road
- consistent enforcement of a safe speed limit along the entire corridor, and
- utilization of quick-build strategies similar to those applied at Mass Ave & Appleton Street.

Mr. Solomon noted that cost is an extreme setback and although progress is underway, long-term solutions are expensive and time intensive. Coordinating and funding a solution would be a welcome next step of formalizing our Connect Arlington strategy of "Test before you invest by implementing 'tactical' infrastructure projects using low-cost, temporary materials to rapidly address a traffic or safety issue". This is also a great opportunity to leverage existing intersection designs done by the Engineering

Department, field observations done by the Transportation Advisory Committee, projects on the Planning Departments Complete Streets Prioritization Plan, and feedback from APD officers who patrol the area to help accelerate the good work that has already been done by these town departments.

The following members of the public spoke:

Margie Bell, 8 Wollaston Avenue

Carol Luddecke, 125 Park Avenue

Adam Auster, 112 Park Avenue

David Morrisette, 225 Waverly Street

Henry Cohn, Cambridge Resident

Grant Cook, 16 Wollaston Ave

Vincent Baudoin, 56 Silk Street

Mr. Feeney noted the remarkable amount of effort that went into the petition to gather signatures and how thoughtfully it was presented. Mr. Feeney noted that Arlington has a number of special speed regulations, carving out different speed limits on different segments of different roads in Town which may differ from the town wide 25 mile per hour speed limit that was adopted following the Municipal Modernization Act. Mr. Feeney stated that it is his intention to refer for further discussion to the Transportation Advisory Commission to weigh in on a recommendation to the Select Board for considering sending correspondence to MassDOT to rescind any and all existing special speed regulations in the community, thereby inferring that the 25 mile per hour speed limit would be in place. Mr. Feeney noted that having those four accidents take place struck a lot of staff especially within the Police Department. Mr. Feeney stated that the Town did note that there were no pedestrian crossing signs at this particular intersection, as there were at other intersections along the Park Ave corridor so they are working to fast track getting a full signage array. Mr. Feeney stated that in respect to the long-term improvements one of the things that he chose to prioritize in his budget proposal that was also supported by the Capital Planning Committee was to increase capital funding within our existing capital plan that may provide a great deal of financial support to some of the efforts described. Mr. Feeney stated that they also increased funding for traffic signal upgrades as well as additional funding into the roadway reconstruction line.

The Board thanked the petitioners as well as Mr. Feeney for the presentation and noted the dangerousness of the corridor and look forward to seeing improvements in the short term and long term to increase safety.

Mrs. Mahon moved receipt.

SO VOTED (5-0)

10. Discussion & Potential Vote: Select Board Warrant Articles for Annual Town Meeting

Mr. Helmuth noted that this was added to the agenda as a place holder to see if the Board had any direct warrant articles that they wanted to place on this year's Town Meeting warrant. The Board noted that the Town Meeting Procedures Committee would be

submitting an article regarding the ability to change the start date of Town Meeting. Mr. Feeney noted that there is a placeholder to establish a private way repair enterprise fund and to then further consider a separate warrant article amending the private way bylaw. Mr. Feeney noted that there would be a warrant article submitted by the Economic Development Coordinator via the Planning Department that would pertain to the vacant storefront registry bylaw and how that impacts second floor vacancies.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Maher noted that the warrant article period closes on Friday, January 26, 2024, at 12:00p.m.

Mr. Feeney extended gratitude to our Comptroller who updated our charge of accounts on Munis for the first time in over 20 years. Mr. Feeney similarly thanked the DPW who put in a significant number of hours working in bad conditions to fix many water leaks after the last storm.

Mrs. Mahon commended the Town Manager for recently providing the Board with an update regarding CSO's and asked if we could extend an invite to the DCR Commissioner for a meeting.

Mr. Diggins attended the MLK Jr. Event and shared that it was well-attended. Mr. Diggins thanked Johanna Meyer who has been instrumental in helping the standing committee create a survey which is now live.

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

SO VOTED (5-0)

Next Scheduled Meeting of Select Board February 5, 2024

A true record attest.

Ashley Maher
Board Administrator

1/22/2024

Agenda Item	Documents Used
1	
2	FY24 Q1 Budget Report Reference
3	Final Fox Library Presentation
4	Reappointment Reference

5	BHM Banner Application Banner Images Banner Schedule
6	Special One-Day Application Reference
7	Wildwood Avenue Memo
8	Parmenter School Building Reference
9	Park Avenue Presentation Resident Petition
10	