Dear Arlington Select Board Members:

Today I stopped by the office of the Zoning Board of Appeals to review the docket for a special permit hearing scheduled for next Tuesday. Despite this hearing having twice been noticed in the local newspaper, I was told by Arlington's Building Commissioner that I could only gain access to the docket by filing a formal Public Records Request--a request the town is under no obligation to fulfill until after the hearing is held. This is unacceptable.

More than six months ago, the ZBA indicated it would be making all of its meeting materials publicly available on the town website (See the ARB report to Town Meeting on Article 23). That has not happened.

I have since made the Public Records Request for the hearing materials. Due to the failure of town officials to fulfill their commitment to the sponsor of Article 23 and Town Meeting, my plan is to request electronic copies of all future ZBA hearings and have them posted to a website for all interested parties to review and possibly comment upon.

It is unfortunate that Arlington officials have such little regard for transparency in zoning administration and give such a low priority to fulfilling their promises to Town Meeting. But since that is the case, they leave residents with no choice but to take matters into their own hands.

Sincerely,

Christopher Loreti

p.s. to Marie Krepelka, please be sure this email is listed among the Select Board's "Correspondence Received" on its next meeting agenda--or if the board has continued its practice of only listing some of the correspondence it receives, please change the agenda heading to "Selected Correspondence Received."