



**Town of Arlington
Office of the Town Manager**

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TO: Select Board
FROM: Sandy Pooler, Town Manager *SMP*
DATE: January 6, 2023
RE: Overnight Parking

I met with the Police Chief, Fire Chief, and DPW Director about a proposed overnight parking program. There was consensus on some issues and divergent options on others, as noted below.

Town-wide or East Arlington only. The Police Chief thought this should be a town-wide program because it would be fairer to residents across town. While there is more of a need for on-street overnight parking in East Arlington, the Police receive more complaints from the area west of Pleasant St. about cars parked overnight.

One or two side parking. All agreed that overnight parking should be on only one side of the street at a time.

Fee. There was no consensus on the amount of a fee or whether there should be any fee. There was some concern over the ability of lower income residents to afford a fee. If there were a fee waiver program, there should be clear rules and easily applied criteria to allow the Select Board staff to administer it.

Permits. It is preferable to issue overnight parking permits and to require permittees to register with their contact information (an email address and/or telephone number) so the Town can contact them in case of a snow emergency, street sweeping, or other need to move their cars from the street.

Signage. There was discussion, but no consensus over the idea of posting the overnight parking rules on all streets. Some people thought it would be necessary to do so, from a customer service point of view, while others thought it unnecessary. Posting signs would be a major undertaking. If DPW were to post the entire town, it would take several months to do so.

Moving cars off the street. It is essential that the Town be able to have residents move their cars off the street when it needs to plow or conduct overnight street sweeping (the Town often sweeps streets at night to allow full access to the roads). A car left parked on a street during a snowstorm can be a major impediment to plowing and may limit the ability of traffic and public safety vehicles, especially fire trucks, to move down a street. While we may be able to ticket such cars, it is not in our ability to tow them during a snowstorm.

Notifications. We would require permittees to sign up for Arlington Alerts where they would receive text, emails, and/or phone calls for snow emergencies. In the future, the Town should consider other notifications systems, such as flashing lights at major intersections. Such a system would need an appropriation and would need to be costed out.

Period of the pilot program. There was a consensus that an overnight parking pilot program should start during warm weather, i.e., not start during the snow season. Perhaps a program starting this spring and running through the fall would supply good data to evaluate the pilot.