

Self Service Gas Station Article 6

Why Self-Serve?

Allowing self-service gas stations in Arlington has many benefits.

Upgrade and rehabilitation of the stations to a more modern and inviting street scape.

A self-service options is a benefit the 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 in the old days.

It is faster, you can get out quicker when you pump it yourself.

Won't Drive Out Small Business Over Time

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

Maintain Actual Service and Annual Inspections Stations

Arlington gas stations are also service stations; a place to take your car to be fixed. Service stations are usually faster and less expensive than Dealership service. This will not change. Vehicles have to be inspected every year. Most service stations do inspections this will not change.

The service bays are where they generate their actual income, not the 12 or 15 cents per gallon upcharge on a gallon of gasoline. That small net markup barely pays the attendant's \$17.00 to \$20.00 hourly wage. It takes 165 gallons of gas just to pay for one hour of attendant time.

Convenience Stores

Self-Serve stations often may have an attached convenience store. This is nice, and it provides an extra revenue stream for the operators in a low margin business.

Future Electric Vehicle Charging and Service

As electric vehicles become more prevalent, there will need to be more places to charge them and service them. There are currently at 4 Electric charging stations in town, all of which are self service. We need equity in fueling.

Elderly and Disabled

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

Which 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.
- * Provide the refueling assistance without any charge beyond the self-serve price for any owner-operator of a motor vehicle bearing handicapped person or disabled veteran number plates as described in section two of chapter ninety (Massachusetts Handicapped Plate and Placard Law; The Americans with Disabilities Act also directs gas stations assist people with disabilities.

<http://www.ada.gov/gasserve.htm>)