

From: Patricia Worden

Sent: Sunday, May 19, 2024 5:29 PM

To: John Hurd; Eric Helmuth; Ashley Maher; Claire Ricker; Jim Feeney; Stephen DeCoursey; Diane Mahon; Len Diggins; Kin Lau; Rachel Zsembery; Stephen Revilak; Eugene Benson; Shaina Korman-Houston; John Worden

Subject: TESTIMONY RE APPOINTMENTS TO THE 2024 MPAC

Kindly post the testimony below in correspondence received for the next Select Board meeting and also for the next Arlington Redevelopment Board meeting respectively.

May 19, 2024

TESTIMONY RE APPOINTMENTS TO THE 2024 MASTER PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dear Select Board Members, Members of the Arlington Redevelopment Board, and Ms. Claire Richter,

Apparently names of applicants to be chosen, as I understand it by Ms. Ricker, for appointment to the new Master Plan Advisory Committee (MPAC) will be voted on soon by the Arlington Redevelopment Board.

The listed prospective appointees are mostly inadequate (and in one case grossly inappropriate) choices since they lack sufficient experience, knowledge, or service in Arlington. One of them has an alarming history of highly personal abusive bullying verbal treatment of those with whom there exists a disagreement. Residents of Arlington should not be subjected to such individuals while attending committee meetings or on social media. The group lacks any members of the Tree Committee, the Conservation Commission, the Human Rights Commission, the School Committee, The Historical Commission, Capital Planning Committee, Historic Districts Commission, Arlington Housing Authority, Park and Recreation Commission or indeed, with one exception, any members of our many knowledgeable Town groups.

With the exception of Grant Cook and Ann LeRoyer, I have not yet been able to find any of the suggested appointees on the Town website, so possibly they have no previous experience of Town service. From their various affiliations many of them appear to be advocates of increased building density and few if any are involved with helpful environmental and conservation issues. Nevertheless they are to be commended for seeking to serve at this point but the Advisory Committee needs balance and addition of experienced residents.

The 2024 MPAC suggested member list is very different from the members of the 2015 MAPC who were well known and often had served for many years in Town Meeting and other roles. They were well distributed philosophically, age-wise and geographically in Arlington.

Let me draw your attention to the suggested list of appointments to be made to the 2024 MPAC. Because of the importance of the recommendations that they will make and their role in selecting, monitoring and advising the Consultant who will be retained I respectfully request the following –

That you add to the appointees, from the group of residents who have applied seeking appointment to the MPAC, a number of those who already have a record of service to the Town.

As you know that is crucial for the future of Arlington. Please ensure that this group is truly representative of the entire Town and not predominantly of any zealotry. Any abusive persons should not be appointed. The aim should be to improve our Town and not necessarily simply to please the Executive Office of Developer Dreams and Unlivable Communities.

Sincerely,
Patricia Barron Worden
Former Town Meeting Member