

Select Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, October 7, 2024

Time: 7:15PM

Location: Members of the public may access the hybrid meeting via the Select Board

Chambers, Zoom, or ACMI

Present: Mr. DeCourcey, Chair, Mrs. Mahon, Vice Chair, Mr. Diggins, Mr. Helmuth

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

Absent: Mr. Hurd

1. Legislative Provision for Remote Participation

Mr. DeCourcey 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.

 Discussion: ACMi Funding John Leone, President, ACMi Norm McLeod, Operations Manager, ACMi

John Leone, President of ACMi, Norm McLeod and Jeff Munro, appeared before the Board and stated that they have a contract with the Town that is in the process of being renewed. ACMi provides the Town with services through the local cable broadcast companies, RCN, Verizon and Comcast where they receive a maximum 5% of the resident's cable bills by federal law. Mr. Leone explained that due to the number of residents cutting their cable ACMi has seen a significant loss in their funding. Mr. Leone noted that ACMi equipment, facilities and staff are responsible for a number of livestream and hybrid meetings, coverage of major town events and content for the Town. Mr. Leone noted that according to their contract they are only obligated to provide coverage for the Select Board, School Committee and Town Meetings. Mr. Leone expressed that ACMi is requesting a combined \$200,000 from the school and town budgets to help compensate ACMi.

The Board thanked ACMi for their presentation and noted that there clearly is a problem throughout the state for local access cable providers. The Board noted that the 5% fee

on user's cable bills is mandated by federal law and can not be increased or decreased by municipality. The Board discussed different options that ACMi may be able to petition noting that the Town budget is tight, and they do not see this as an annual funding mechanism for the town long term. The Board understands the dire need for funding, but the Town needs to see detail on how the money will be spent. Mr. Feeney noted that the lease for Park Avenue where ACMi resides is going before the RFP process now. Mr. Feeney noted that he spoke with the Executive Director of ACMi and something that would be within grasp is potentially approaching the Select Board and having that procurment process be deemed in the public's interest and with the support of the Board the Town could potentially go through that RFP process and lease the building for \$1/year which would help ACMi.

FOR APPROVAL

 Request: Special (One Day) Beer & Wine License, 10/18/2024, 11/15/2024, 12/20/2024 @ The Mill Cafe, 14 Mill St. for Mill Cafe After Hours Event Andrew Hunter, The Mill Cafe

Mrs. Mahon moved to table.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion by Mr. Cunningham.

Mrs. Mahon: yes Mr. DeCourcey: yes Mr. Diggins: yes

Mr. Helmuth: yes SO

VOTED (4-0)

CONSENT AGENDA

- 4. Minutes of Meetings: August 19, 2024; September 9, 2024
- Temporary Parking Request for Spooky Walk, October 26, 2024 Kelley Damore
- 6. Request: Permit for Veterans' Day Parade, Monday, November 11th Philip J. McGovern, Director of Veterans Services
- Free Parking in the Russell Common Lot & Railroad Lot for Small Business Saturday 11/30/2024
 Arlington Committee on Tourism and Economic Development

Mrs. Mahon moved to approve.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion by Mr. Cunningham.

Mrs. Mahon: yes Mr. DeCourcey: yes Mr. Diggins: yes

Mr. Helmuth: yes SO

VOTED (4-0)

PUBLIC HEARINGS

8. Comcast Petition/ Medford Street David R. Flewelling, Comcast

Mr. Flewelling appeared before the Board on behalf of Comcast to request permission to construct a line starting at Comcast manhole to place one 4-inch PVC conduit 31 feet to the existing Astound manhole on Medford Street.

Mrs. Mahon moved to approve.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion by Mr. Cunningham.

Mrs. Mahon: yes Mr. DeCourcey: yes Mr. Diggins: yes

Mr. Helmuth: yes SO

VOTED (4-0)

APPOINTMENTS

9. Library Board of Trustees
Lily Rao (term to expire:06/30/2026)

Ms. Rao appeared before the Board and stated that she moved to Arlington in 2022 and loves the libraries in the Town. Ms. Rao stated that she has children that attend the public-school systems in Town, and they frequent the library and excited to be able to serve the community in this capacity.

The Board thanked Ms. Rao for her willingness to serve and look forward to working with her in the future.

Mr. Diggins moved to approve.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion by Mr. Cunningham.

Mrs. Mahon: yes Mr. DeCourcey: yes Mr. Diggins: yes

Mr. Helmuth: yes SO

VOTED (4-0)

10. Arlington Commission of Arts and Culture Anne Thomson (term to expire: 06/30/2027)

Mrs. Mahon moved to approve.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion by Mr. Cunningham.

Mrs. Mahon: yes Mr. DeCourcey: yes Mr. Diggins: yes Mr. Helmuth: yes SO

VOTED (4-0)

Mr. Helmuth left the meeting at 8:27p.m.

LICENSES & PERMITS

11. For Approval: Wine & Malt Alcohol License
Umi Sushi LLC, Umi Sushi, Qiao Chen, 474 Massachusetts Avenue

Ms. Chen appeared before the Board and stated that she is the owner of Umi Sushi and is requesting a wine and malt alcohol license. Ms. Chen noted that since opening her restaurant a number of patrons have inquired about alcohol and Ms. Chen believes it will help her restaurant as they face significant challenges generating enough revenue to sustain her business. The Board thanked Ms. Chen for choosing Arlington and look forward to visiting the restaurant in the future.

Mr. Diggins moved to approve.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion by Mr. Cunningham.

Mrs. Mahon: yes Mr. DeCourcey: yes

Mr. Diggins: yes SO VOTED (3-0)

OPEN FORUM

Joe Snodgrass, 5 Old Colony Road, appeared before the Board and stated that he is a volunteer at ACMi and supports the funding effort.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- 12. Open Space Concepts for 21 Pond Lane David Morgan, Environmental Planner
- 13.2024 Arlington Community Electricity Contract Launch Talia Fox, Sustainability Manager

Mrs. Mahon moved to receipt.

SO VOTED (3-0)

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Diggins stated that he went to the remembrance for Jane Howard and noted how nice the ceremony was.

Mrs. Mahon welcomed back Town Manager Feeney and Chief Kelley from their visit at our sister city in Japan.

Next Scheduled Meeting of Select Board Monday, October 21, 2024

Mrs. Mahon moved to adjourn at 8:47p.m.

A true record attest. Ashley Maher Board Administrator 10/07/2024

10/01/2024	
Agenda Item	Documents Used
1	
2	ACMi Presentation
3	Mill Cafe Special One Day Reference
4	Draft 9.9.2021 Minutes
5	Spooky Walk Application
	Recreation Comments
	Police Comments
6	Veterans Parade Request
7	Free Parking Small Business Saturday Memo
8	Engineering Memo and Comcast Petition, Location, Map
	Letter to Abutters
9	L. Rao Reference
10	A. Thompson Reference
11	Application
	Inspection Reports
12	21 Pond Lane Memo from Planning Department
13	ACE Contract Renewal Memo from Planning Department
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