



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## 10/03/2013 Minutes

### Arlington Master Plan Advisory Committee

**DRAFT Minutes: October 3, 2013, 7:00-9:00 PM**

**Approved: October 29, 2013**

**Art Room, Arlington Senior Center – relocated to BoH Conf. Room.**

**Members present:** Charles Kalauskas, Monica Tibbits-Nutt, Pam Heidell, Bob Radochia, Harris Band, Eric Bourassa, Greg Bowe

**Members absent:** Sheri Baron, Carol Svenson, Joe Barr, Ann LeRoyer

**Also present:** Consultant Judi Barrett (RKG Associates); Christine Scypinski (ARB); Joe Curro (BoS); Carol Kowalski, Laura Wiener, and Joey Glushko of the Planning Dept.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM. The minutes of Sept. 25, 2013 were unanimously approved.

**Welcome** – the group welcomed Joe Curro, sitting in as the representative of the Board of Selectmen; introductions were made of all present.

**Review of Revised Vision Statement** – The group expressed support for the revised vision statement; it is dated 10/1/2013. The item will continue to be labeled as “DRAFT” – it is recognized that some changes might occur as element goals and working papers are developed.

**Review and Work on Revised Goals** – Judi Barrett suggested that the intent was to simplify the language and format and get to the “heart” of the intended goal. Some modifications to goals were easier than others. While below are listed some of the specific changes that emerged, attached is a draft version of the goals collated by Carol Kowalski which were submitted to the Board of Selectmen for their October 7 meeting; the MPAC did vote support of the draft material, but they do not include updated material.

Under **Housing**, rewording item 4: “Encourage sustainable construction and renovation of new and existing structures.”

Under **Cultural Resources**, simplifying item 3 to “Promote arts and cultural activities for all ages.”

Under **Natural Resources**, rewording item 1: “Use sustainable planning and engineering approaches to improve air and water quality, reduce flooding and enhance ecological diversity.”

Under **Open Space and Recreation** additions and deletions of selected text add clarity to items 1 and 3:  
 Treasure our open spaces, parks, and other recreational facilities and natural areas.

Maintain and beautify our public parks, trails, play areas, and streetscapes.

Under **Public Facilities and Services** items 2, 3, and 4 were reworded as follows:

Build, operate, and maintain public facilities that are sustainable, attractive and with minimal impact on the environment, and help to connect Arlington as a community.

Balance the need for additional revenue with ability and willingness of property owners to pay for expenditures and investments.

Guide public facility investments through a long-term capital planning process that anticipates future needs.

Some will require additional development, not yet acknowledged in the current goals:

Under **Land Use**, add some recognition of Mass. Ave., as a spine of the community;

Under **Economic Development**, ensuring that it is understood that “buildout potential” could allow building “up,” as well as larger structures.

Under **Open Space and Recreation**, how to acknowledge the desire for “expansion” of Open Space areas?

Changes to the goals are anticipated, as they are developed further through the working papers and future creation of objectives. Pam Heidell pointed out that the public participation for some of the goals working groups contributed significant objectives which should be acknowledged – exemplifying material that the Open Space/ Recreation / Natural and Cultural Resources working group collected in its two public meetings; these specific objectives should be circulated to the MPAC and consultants.

**Action:** Carol Kowalski will submit a draft version of the revised vision statement and goals and summaries of June-August public inputs to the Board of Selectmen for their October 7 meeting.

**Action:** Pam Heidell will send to MPAC and consultants the objectives associated with Op.Sp./Rec./Cult. and Nat. Res goals collected by goals working group; other working groups are encouraged to do the same, if their group(s) have these details/objectives.

**Schedule from RKG** – Judi Barrett submitted a project plan for the next four months; it was reviewed. Harris Band recommended identifying where we are in the process.

**Action:** Determine a date for inviting ARB member Andy West to speak to the MPAC regarding Mill Brook area development plan; such a meeting will be scheduled after the November 7 public meeting.

**MPAC 2014 Meeting Schedule** - The group will continue to schedule “first Thursday” monthly meetings; public outreach for teens (11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders) will be planned for January; outreach for businesses has not as yet been planned for.

**Action:** Planning for Teen outreach event – proposed for Jan. 2014

**Action:** Planning for Business outreach event – proposed for March/April 2014

**Selection of November Date for Public Presentation of RKG Baseline Report** – November 7 is the date selected; a location has not yet been finalized. RKG will develop presentation material.

**Operating procedures** – Carol Kowalski introduced the operating procedures for the Committee; Committee members are asked to review this material and they will be discussed and finalized at the October 29 meeting.

**Action:** This item will be reviewed/discussed at the October 29 meeting of the MPAC.

**Public Comment** – There were no visitors/comments this evening.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM  
Minutes submitted by Joey Glushko

See attached Draft Goals forwarded to BoS for 10/7/2013

Arlington is built on deep and lasting connections. Each of us is connected to the shared history of this place and the stories we bring to it, and we are committed to working together to forge a shared future, aware of our connections to each other and respectful of our differences. We are connected through our neighborhoods and the sense of belonging we feel in them, and we value our connections to the larger region around us. We also take pride in our schools, our parks, and our public spaces. As we work to keep our neighborhoods welcoming to all, we remain committed to preserving Arlington's economic and cultural diversity.

We recognize that the future of Arlington is connected to the natural resources and systems we depend on and enjoy, as well as the local and regional economic relationships that have developed over time. We envision a future in which our fiscal and environmental health are in balance and wisely stewarded.

Although this plan consists of multiple sections, it is a single document, representing a coherent vision for Arlington's future. Looking forward, we know that Arlington will continue to change, and change will present both opportunities and challenges. We have tried to foresee and account for these changes, knowing that Arlington will also face situations we could not predict when this plan was written. To help guide us through the future – both known and uncertain – we have tried to create a plan that calls attention to parallels as well as the potential conflicts and trade-offs in the choices that lie ahead.

## **Distributed to BoS, 10/7/2013**

### **Master Plan Goals**

#### **Land Use**

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- Balance housing growth with other land uses that support residential services and amenities.
- Encourage development that enhances the quality of Arlington's natural resources and built environment.
- Attract development that supports and expands the economic, cultural, and civic purposes of Arlington's commercial areas.

#### **Transportation**

- Enhance mobility and increase safety by maximizing transit, bicycle, and pedestrian access and other alternative modes of transportation.~
- Manage congestion safely and efficiently by improving traffic operations.~
- Manage the supply of parking in commercial areas in order to support Arlington businesses.

#### **Housing**

- Encourage mixed-use development that includes affordable housing, primarily in well-established commercial areas.
- Provide a variety of housing options for a range of incomes, ages, family sizes, and needs.
- Preserve the "streetcar suburb" character of Arlington's residential neighborhoods.
- Encourage sustainable housing through new construction and renovation of existing structures.

#### **Economic Development**

- Improve access to public transit and parking.
- Support conditions that benefit small, independent businesses.
- Maximize the buildout potential of commercial and industrial properties.
- Promote Arlington's historic and cultural assets as leverage for economic development.

#### **Cultural Resources**

- Maintain, protect, preserve, and promote historic and diverse cultural resources in all neighborhoods.
- Provide attractive, well-maintained spaces for residents to meet, play and grow.
- Promote public arts and cultural activities for all ages.

### **Natural Resources**

- Improve air and water quality, reduce flooding, and enhance ecological diversity by managing our natural resources.
- Mitigate and adapt to climate change.
- Ensure that Arlington's neighborhoods, commercial areas, and infrastructure are developed in harmony with natural resource concerns.
- Value and protect the physical beauty and natural habitats of Arlington.

### **Open Space and Recreation**

- Treasure our open spaces, parks, and other recreational and natural areas.
- Expand recreational and athletic facilities, programs, and opportunities, for all residents.
- Maintain and beautify our public parks, play areas, streetscapes, and sidewalks.

### **Public Facilities and Services**

- Coordinate and efficiently deliver town services.
- Build, operate, and maintain sustainably designed public facilities that are attractive and help to connect Arlington as a community.
- Balance the need for additional revenue with ability of property owners to afford new expenditures and investments
- Justify public facility investments through a long-term capital planning process that anticipates future needs.