



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

09/15/2011 Minutes

Approved

VISION 2020 ENVIRONMENT TASK GROUP
 SEPTEMBER 15, 2011 MEETING

SUSTAINABLE ARLINGTON
 Senior Center

In attendance: Shelly Dein, DeAnne Dupont, Mitch Fava, David Haas, Elizabeth Karpati, Ryan Katofsky, David Landskov, Gail McCormick, Charlotte Milan, Scott Samenfeld, Mike Wolfson. Facilitator: Charlotte Milan Minutes: Elizabeth Karpati

Next meetings: 7:30 pm Wed. Oct. 19, Thurs. Nov. 17, Wed. Dec. 14, Senior Center.

- The July minutes were accepted as presented. No minutes yet for the August meeting, which was attended by very few people.
- We will have nominations for the Steering Committee in October and elections in November. Volunteers are needed for the Steering Committee positions (President, VP, Secretary) and to head the permanent committees (Website, Outreach; MCAN and Vision 2020 representatives). Ryan and Shelly are the Town-appointed representatives to the Energy Working Group (EWG).
- Announcements at our monthly meetings should be limited to local events involving SA. For other events of interest see the SA website.
- Mitch passed around information on Hempcrete – apparently an excellent "green" building material but taboo in the U.S. because of concerns about marijuana.
- SA is co-sponsoring a lecture-discussion on building sustainable suburbs which is part of Arlington Community Education, 7:30 p.m. Sept. 27 at the High School.
- The rain garden is to be installed at Spy Pond Park on Saturday, Oct. 1, 10 am – 2 pm.
- The Recycling committee wants SA's help in getting Arlington to sign on as a supporter of the expanded bottle bill.
- Ryan reported that the EWG is involved in three projects for which Arlington received Green Communities funding: fixing the steam traps in the High School, improving the energy management system at the Hardy School, and replacing about 500 of 3000 streetlights with LEDs. For the last project different sample lights will be installed first and the public will be asked to vote for the preferred type. We can start thinking about additional projects for which funding could be requested when it becomes available.
- EWG is looking into possible lease-like arrangements for solar panels. The ones for the Ottoson School have been installed and are awaiting the final permit to operate.
- Ryan will tell the EWG that the SA is urging Arlington to hire an energy manager.
- Shelly is working with a Mass Energy Insight tracking tool to track the Town's progress toward a 20% reduction in energy use.
- A thermal imaging project was done in the spring. The company will send postcards to homeowners whose houses scored poorly. All Town-owned buildings were included; one historical building proved extremely leaky.
- The MCAN campaign urging homeowners to get energy audits yielded 900 sign-ups to date, and half of these came from Arlington!
- The "350.org" rally on Sept. 24 will be held at Columbus Waterfront Park at 3:40 pm. Participants should arrive by "T" (meet at 2 pm at the First Parish Church bus stop) or bike (meet in front of Jam & Java at 2:15).
- The next Ecofest will be held on Saturday, March 31; the topic will be local food. A planning meeting will be held after the rain garden is done. Additional members to the planning committee are welcome. Should the main speaker be on a separate evening the same week rather than during the Ecofest?