



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

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

03/17/2011 Minutes

VISION 2020 ENVIRONMENT TASK GROUP
MARCH 17, 2011 MEETING

SUSTAINABLE ARLINGTON
Senior Center

In attendance: Marc Breslow, Jack Conlin, David Haas, Elizabeth Karpati, David Landskov, Gail McCormick, Charlotte Milan, Kavita Ravi, Scott Samenfeld, Lisa Weil, Michael Wilson.

Facilitator: Charlotte Milan

Minutes: Elizabeth Karpati

Next meetings: 7:30 p.m. Wed. Apr. 20, Thurs. May 19, Wed. June 15, Thurs. July 21, Wed. Aug. 17, Thurs. Sept. 15, Wed. Oct. 19, Thurs. Nov. 17, Wed. Dec. 14; Town Hall Annex, First Floor.

- The **minutes** of the February meeting were accepted with two corrections.

Announcements:

- The EcoFest in Town Hall on March 26, 10-2, will have some short films and a speaker.
- The art exhibit by Gail and her daughter, on the second floor of Town Hall, will be up by March 26 but the reception will be on April 1 and Gail could use some help.
- On April 12 at 7 p.m. there will be a hearing in Town Hall on the Mass. Ave. revitalization plan.
- The local election will be held on April 2. (Candidates' Night was announced for March 23 but the correct date is March 24.)
- The Selectmen will discuss the Pay As You Throw warrant article on April 4. The DEP consultant said curbside composting won't work without PAYT.
- SA has the table at Robbins Library for a display in April.
- The film series will be: April 3, "Gimme Green" (lawns); April 7, "Liquid Assets" (water), April 10, "Thirst" (privatization of water).
- MCAN will start a 6-week campaign in April to promote MassSave energy audits.
- Jane Howard would welcome ideas for a water-related theme for the Vision 2020 year-end celebration.
- SA was invited to give a presentation at the Bishop School about recycling. Charlotte suggests that the high school SAVE club should do it, but we could cooperate.

Marc Breslow discussed the state's **Clean Energy and Climate Plan**.

- A law passed in 2008 called for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 10-25% from 1990 levels by 2020 and 50% by 2050. Ian Bowles, recently Secretary for Energy (etc.), chose 25% as the target, the highest set by any state.
- The plan, announced on 12/29/10, listed a number of policies; if all can be carried out as planned, reductions would total 27%. All figures are approximate, so the actual reduction could be 18-32%.
- For automobiles, the sales tax could be made to vary according to fuel efficiency. Insurance rates could be higher for more miles driven ("pay as you drive").
- Current GHG emissions are about the same as in 1990 despite growth since then, for several reasons

including conversion of some power plants from coal to gas, tax incentives, and a shift from manufacturing to services (which just shifts emissions elsewhere).

- Reconciling measures to cut emissions with measures to stimulate the economy will be difficult.
- But Massachusetts now spends about \$22 billion annually on importing energy. If some of that money could remain within the state, it could create jobs, maybe over 40,000.
- When people suddenly have to replace a broken appliance they don't have time to research the most energy efficient models or find a knowledgeable installer – perhaps SA could compile information and serve as a resource.
- Some money has been allocated for a lottery to help green communities explore aggregating households to purchase photovoltaic energy.