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March 11 - Minutes

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VISION 2020 STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES OF MARCH 11, 2009 MEETING Approved, with corrections, March 31, 2009

In attendance: Nancy Barry, Paul Bayer, Andrew Fischer, Bruce Fitzsimmons, Joey Glushko, Clare Gordon, Jane Howard, Elizabeth Karpati, Annie LaCourt, Josh Lobel, Leslie Mayer, Bill Wilmot, and Barbara Boltz and Susan Lees of Welcoming Massachusetts/United for Justice and Peace.

- The **minutes** of the previous meeting were accepted as presented.
- The two guests presented the statewide "**Welcoming Massachusetts**" initiative to protect immigrants' rights. It can be endorsed by organizations or individuals; the Arlington Board of Selectmen and Cardinal O'Malley, among others, have already endorsed it.

Task group reports:

- **Diversity** is organizing a job fair for both the disabled and the able-bodied on April 2 at Town Hall.
- **Culture & Recreation:** Arlington Center for the Arts holds a fund-raising party on March 28.
- **Environment:** The Spy Pond Committee has met with Town Engineer Mike Rademacher to discuss the possibilities for making a linear park along the path between the pond and Rt. 2. The annual work day along the path will be held on May 9. The annual fertilizer flyer is being distributed this year by students in the "Workplace" program. The Reservoir Committee is about to meet with the landscape architect who has volunteered to help design a habitat garden (funded by a donation) at the Res. Sustainable Arlington is continuing with the Energy Smackdown, in which Arlington is leading, and is planning to participate in MCAN's "Cool Mass" campaign.

Warrant articles:

- The article asking for an appropriation for the **water bodies** fund has been presented to the Finance Committee, which approved asking for \$15,000.
- Andrew Fischer has presented his warrant article asking the legislature to study **municipally sponsored automobile insurance** to the Board of Selectmen.
- The warrant article on establishing a **fund to help with after-school fees** has been discussed with the Fin Com, Selectmen, and Treasurer as well as the School Committee. The Treasurer opposes adding a checkoff box for it to the tax bill but would be willing to include information. The School Committee would like to work with a Standing Committee subcommittee on this issue.

Other:

- The **census survey** has had 3600 returns, an 18.9% rate, but on-line returns have been few. The cutoff is March 16.
- The community discussion on **health care** on Feb. 4 was successful but the report is not yet ready.
- **Town Hall topics:** Plans for the state-funded Mass. Ave. Corridor project are proceeding, but Symmes is on hold because the developer can't get construction loans. The Alewife Greenway plan was approved by the Con Com and conditionally by the Selectmen pending complete plans.
- **Website:** All task group pages should have a paragraph about current activities, e.g. like the one on the Spy Pond page.

Coming Events:

- **Candidates' Night** will be held on March 26 in Town Hall, with an opportunity to talk to Town Meeting candidates from 7:30 to 8 pm, followed by a debate and Q+A session with Town-wide candidates. There is only one contest, for School Committee.



- “Ecofest,” 9 – 1 on March 28 in Town Hall, will be sponsored by the Garden Club, DPW, the Planning Department, and Vision 2020. It will feature “green” vendors and Town groups like the Recycling Committee, and a speaker on ecological lawn alternatives.
- The **State of the Town** address, followed by a reception, will open Town Meeting on April 27. It will begin at 7 pm.

Town Hall 781-316-3000

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