



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Minutes 03/31/2009

VISION 2020 ENVIRONMENT TASK GROUP
 MARCH 31, 2009 MEETING

SPY POND COMMITTEE
 Town Hall Annex, First Floor

In attendance: Brad Barber, Michael Buonaiuto, Marlene Cole, Bill Eykamp, Jacob Friis, Joey Glushko, Jane Howard, Elizabeth Karpati, and kayak polo players David Gillman and Rebecca Sugarman. **Facilitator:** Jacob Friis **Minutes:** Elizabeth Karpati

Next meetings: 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, April 28 and June 9, Town Hall Annex, First Floor.
 "Trails Day" 9 a.m. Saturday, May 9, Rt. 2 path.

- Marlene Cole presented her project of trying to get people to use native and local plants.
- **Waterbodies fund:** The Fin Com unanimously approved our request for funding and will present it to Town Meeting, recommending \$15,000. Town Meeting starts April 27 but may not vote on any funding item until it hears how much state money Arlington will get. Teresa DeBenedictis suggests having figures on weed treatment costs ready for the debate.
- The RFP for **weed treatment** for Spy Pond this May should be ready to go out by Friday. The Con Com has approved but wants documentation on the need for weed treatment. The water level will need to be lowered, Belmont notified, and abutters warned not to use the pond water for irrigation until the effect of the herbicide has dissipated.
- **Sandbar:** Mike Rademacher is working on getting estimates for the permits and the work. He thinks the permits will cost about \$10-15,000.
- Preparations for **Trails Day** are pretty much all set. MassHighway gets prisoners to pick up trash from the highway side of the fence from time to time; Joey will ask them to do it before May 9 this year so that we only need to pick up what they missed.
- **Website:** The Spy Pond page needs contact information for the co-chairs listed. It has some minutes posted and a link to the site run by Dave Kopans which has additional things like a picture of the storm drain marker. Minutes on the latter site are obsolete; Dave should add a statement referring readers to the Town site for current minutes.
- The Arlington and Belmont high schools are planning a joint **rowing team** using Spy Pond, with boats to be stored in the parking lot on the other side of the bikeway from Spy Pond Park.
- The Recreation Department will repeat the **canoe/kayak rental** program from last summer, but on Friday evenings rather than Sunday afternoons.
- The "**Ecofest**" on March 28 was a big success, with good attendance (well over 100 people) and a good presentation on lawn alternatives by David Epstein. It will be repeated next year, then take a break.
- The **fertilizer flyers** have been delivered by the "Workplace" students. Joey suggested doing another flyer in the fall for abutters with suggestions for appropriate plantings along the water's edge.
- The **Reservoir** committee is planning a habitat garden of native plants at the Res. Its next meeting is 7:30 p.m. April 15 in the Selectmen's Hearing Room.
- **Egg addling** should start about mid-April. Jacob will check that the permit has been obtained.
- The draft **Spy Pond management plan** raised the question of just how much should go into it. Joey and Elizabeth came up with the idea of leaving it pretty much as is, in the format used by the Open Space Committee, and creating a more extensive compilation of Spy Pond information, including a list of past studies, weed survey information, Secchi disk readings, changes in water level, etc. etc. Elizabeth is now working on it. Brad suggested getting data on the spread of phragmites – getting old aerial photos if possible – or at least starting a series by measuring the extent of phragmites patches year after year.