



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## September Minutes

### VISION 2020 STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2009 MEETING (approved October 14, 2009)

**In attendance:** Paul Bayer, Andrew Fischer, Bruce Fitzsimmons, Joey Glushko, Jane Howard, Elizabeth Karpati, Angela Olszewski.

- The **minutes** of the last meeting (May 5) were accepted as presented.
- The plan for revising the format of the State of the Town address has been presented to the Board of Selectmen. They agreed to eliminate the reception and to consider a less expensive way to send the invitations than by mail, and they are likely to take the main responsibility for the next event.
- Plans for **Town Day**, September 26, were reviewed. English At Large (a tutoring project) and the Sudanese Center in East Arlington will have representatives at the Vision 2020 tables, and there will be promotional materials for the 2010 Census.
- **Task Group reports:** Environment – **Spy Pond:** An energetic Spy Pond Committee member is spearheading a move to control phragmites, which has two large patches on Spy Pond and is spreading in numerous places along the shoreline. The Town has agreed to be the applicant for the first phase of what will be a multi-year project, treating the reeds on public property, i.e. in the water. Discussions have already been held with affected abutters, who are generally in favor, and with the Con Com, which will be asked for formal permission at its next meeting on September 17. Because the Waterbodies Fund has largely been used up for weed treatment of Spy Pond, contributions are being solicited. Letters have already been sent to the abutters, and funds will also be solicited on Town Day with a display of samples of the phragmites and some recommended replacement plants.
- Ideas for the **2010 Census Survey insert** were discussed. Joey suggested that at least in some years we should provide information rather than take a survey, since there is a short time for acting on the results of one survey before the one from the next year comes in. Possible ideas for an information piece and/or survey:
  - The five-year plans – how the current one succeeded and what should be in the next one, which will start in July 2010.
  - Information on what has been done about things people asked for on earlier surveys.
  - Pay-as-you-throw.
  - Encourage participation in the 2010 federal census, point out that results are used to allocate congressional seats and federal funds.
  - Questions/information from Council on Aging, e.g. on the penalty for signing up late for Medicare B.
  - Auto insurance: how much people pay, whether they have filed any claims.
  - Parking issues: changing the overnight street parking ban; having a board other than the Selectmen deal with requests for exceptions.