



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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April 2008

VISION ~2020 ~STANDING ~COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF ~APRIL 8, 2008 ~MEETING; Approved May 6, 2008

In attendance: ~ Andrew Fischer, Joey Glushko, Clare Gordon, Jane Howard, Gordon Jamieson, Elizabeth Karpati, Josh Lobel.

The minutes of the March meeting were accepted with one correction: the Spy Pond Committee presentation on rain gardens, announced as upcoming, had already taken place.

Census survey: ~2537 responses received and scanned (plus three new ones). Results will go to the police as well as the Town Manager. The updated volunteers list has 171 names. ~

The May 6 Standing Committee meeting will be turned into an information session for new volunteers: ~all will be invited, and each task group will be asked to send a representative with information about the group's aims and current projects.

Warrant articles: ~The waterbodies article will be moot if the state approves the home rule petition requested in the 2006 article; the request is winding its way slowly through the legislative process; the request for a \$15,000. appropriation is still desired, though, within this year's

Warrant article #65.. ~On the Fiscal Resources articles, the Board of Selectmen voted no action On #75 and 76 but the Finance Committee favors #75.

Finding a way to track home rule petitions so that they don't get lost in the legislative process should be a project for the Governance Task Group.
 Events, past and upcoming:

The presentation on rain gardens to the Spy Pond Committee was given by Rachel Calabro of the State Fish and Wildlife Department and was well received. ~There are now several groups in town that are advocating for rain barrels and rain gardens.

Candidates' Night, co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters and Vision 2020, was well attended but there was controversy when one candidate claimed that another had seen the questions in advance. ~Jane plans to meet with the League to develop procedures to prevent such suspicions from arising.

The State of the Town address will be given by Clarissa Rowe, incoming chair of the Selectmen, preceding the opening of Town Meeting on Monday, April 28. ~Some 1100 invitations will be mailed out this week.

Discussion about whether and when there should be a State of the Schools address again led to Andrew's motion (accepted) ~that Vision 2020 support the School Committee giving such an address by a member they choose and on a date they choose, starting next year.

The Vision 2020 year-end event is planned as a potluck at McClennen Park on June 12. ~ Alan McClennen is to be invited.

On May 10 the Spy Pond Committee will have a follow-up to the three-year project on the Route 2 path, for cleanup and removal of invasive plants

Stillwater Outfitters will bring canoes and kayaks for rental to Spy Pond one Sunday a month this summer, starting on May 4. ~Reservations must be made and paid for in advance at the Recreation Department. ~The contract will be handled by the Recreation Department.

Town Hall topics:

Juliana Rice, formerly of the Attorney General's office, has been hired as the new Town Counsel and is about to start work. ~John Maher has been elected a Town Meeting member. ~We

also have a new Town Engineer, Mike Rademacher.

The part of DPW that was on the second floor of the Town Hall Annex will join the rest at the DPW yard on Grove Street, and the Town Manager will move to the second floor.

Four Design Assistance Grant for the storefront improvement program have been approve; two are pending. ~There is also a state-sponsored business district improvement program, active in two areas in Arlington: ~building owners and business owners in an area agree to pay higher taxes

which are returned to them in the form of some improvement project.