



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## Notes - Dec. 2008 Mtg with MassHighway

Spy Pond: Remediation of Sediment Deposited at 54<sup>th</sup> Drain  
 Meeting Notes: with MassHighway and Town of Arlington  
 Meeting Date: December 11, 2008  
 (Notes Revised 1/1/09)

Attending: Patricia Leavenworth, District Highway Director,  
 Paul Stedman, District Operations Engineer  
 Brett Loosian, District Highway Maintenance Engineer  
 Bob Boone, District Environmental Engineer  
 Henry Barbaro, Boston Environmental - Wetlands Section  
 Kevin Walsh, MassHighway's Director of Environmental Programs  
 Cindy Friedman, Chief of Staff, 4<sup>th</sup> Middlesex Senate District  
 Rep. Will Brownsberger  
 Clarissa Rowe, Chair of the Board of Selectmen  
 Jacob Friis, Arlington Vision 2020 Spy Pond Committee Co-chair  
 Steve Ricci, Arlington Vision 2020 Spy Pond Committee Co-chair  
 Kevin O'Brien, Director, Planning Department  
 Joey Glushko, Planning Department  
 Michael Rademacher, Town Engineer DPW  
 Jane Howard, Arlington Vision 2020 Co-Chair  
 Andrea Norton- District Environmental Scientist(?)

Following the introduction of participants at the meeting, Clarissa Rowe briefly described the area of concern on the south side of Arlington's Spy Pond; Steve Ricci and Jacob Friis expanded on the issues and projects that Spy Pond Committee and volunteers have worked on and focused attention on the primary issue of the growing sediment accumulated at the 54<sup>th</sup> drainage pipe; and, secondarily, they, along with Jane Howard, highlighted the condition of the pathway and the fence relocation, which are the heart of attempts to create a passive linear park along this south side of the pond. Clarissa Rowe highlighted the maintenance efforts performed by the Town of Arlington for pond protection.

A good discussion followed with contributions from MassHighway and Arlington people regarding the efforts to remediate the sediment accumulation. Citing the ENSR report of 2001 that analyzed the content of the material accumulating at the drain locus, MassHighway felt that problematic levels of arsenic in the sediment were a reason for limiting the actions available to remediate the problem. Referencing the same report, Arlington participants pointed out that the abnormal levels need not impede remediation as the report actually recommended removal of sandy deposits and leaving lower silt in place. MassHighway acknowledged that they did not have financial resources or an existing structure to perform this work; and there were no related nearby projects to which the remediation or drain maintenance could be joined. Pat Leavenworth described the funding dilemma. Will Brownsberger focused the attention on what it might take (work effort and \$\$) to accomplish the remediation, then everyone focused on how to get the project looked at from a design perspective - analyzing sediment, generating options for removal/remediation, and getting cost estimates for permitting and the different options.

We also discussed the Town's desire to relocate the barrier fence that defines the separation of the path on the south edge of the pond from the Rt. 2 corridor. This topic seemed to generate a cooperative response - to explore future possibilities. On this item, MassHighway asked for a description of the Town's vision for the linear park concept which is in development - this would help them to know what was under consideration, and how they might be able to contribute. MassHighway acknowledged that the land along Spy Pond's southern border is theirs, but that if usage was guided toward the park and recreation intent, it is possible that guidance and resources might be available from DCR.

In closing the meeting, Clarissa Rowe recognized that MassHighway could act as an ally in addressing the sediment issue and there was further brainstorming about possible organizations and departments that could provide funding and resources to remove

the sediment. MassHighway offered support if there was a particular piece of work that fell under their domain.

The Town of Arlington will pursue the following options at this time: Clarissa Rowe will work with Town Engineer Mike Rademacher to explore funding for a project which will look at evaluation of sediment and design/cost options for remediation/removal. The Spy Pond Committee volunteer participants will develop a concept design for the linear park area along the path on the south edge of the pond to present to MassHighway next year (2009).