



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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May 2006 Minutes

VISION 2020 STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MAY 15, 2006

In attendance: Jane Howard, Joey Glushko, Elizabeth Karpati, Cheryl Miller, Gene Benson and Clare Gordon.

Because Elizabeth Karpati is recovering from a wrist injury, minutes were taken by Clare Gordon.

Minutes of April 19, 2006

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. It was noted that when the specific correction of minutes is not stated in the subsequent minutes, it could be difficult to determine what the correction was. Those who had been present on 4/19/06 believed there had been a "typo" of little significance in the March minutes. In future we will try to note the corrections made when minutes are discussed and approved.

Update on V2020 Town Meeting Articles

Article 15 was passed unanimously in the form of a Resolution. (Wording of the resolution was distributed to attendees and will be in the report of the 2006 Annual Town Meeting.) The Board of Assessors will be making an annual report to Town Meeting.

Article 24 was passed with a vote of 122-14. A \$15,000 appropriation was passed to become part of a special fund for maintenance of all town water bodies. The appropriation will be available regardless of whether the state passes the requested legislation setting up the fund.

2006 Survey Report

The report given to Town Meeting was distributed to attendees and discussion followed. Many thanks go to those who accomplished the data entry required! 3207 replies were received with a cutoff of 4/1.

The designation of the respondent's precinct showed a fairly close distribution across the town from a high of 5.1% to a low of 2.9% of replies by precinct. Most of the questions pertained to sustainability and will be utilized by relevant committees and town officials. Suggestions were made around increasing recycling, especially providing more information to people (such as the availability of extra bins). We discussed whether the fall collection of yard waste was long enough since there were so many bags left curbside over the winter. Late-falling leaves (especially oaks) should be considered. Regarding energy use, it would make sense another time to ask how housing is heated and who pays in order to clarify how this affects decisions people make.

Next year there may be optical scanning equipment available to begin the analysis of questionnaires returned by citizens. If so, our questions and the format of the questionnaire will have to be designed with the available software in mind.

Suggestions for next year's Town Survey questions should be given as soon as possible, since the questionnaire should be formulated right after Town Day. We should consider what we need to know as well as what we want to teach. There are questions about transportation available, but we may also need to ask about what people want for the Stratton and Thompson schools. Joey Glushko noted that a consultant may be hired for outreach on zoning; the Selectmen feel that the Zoning Bylaw should be reviewed.

Posting Meeting Notices and Minutes for Standing Committee and Task Groups

The Town of Arlington website format in regard to Vision 2020 was discussed in response to drafts provided by Joey Glushko. These ideas are subject to feedback from the Standing Committee and Task Groups. The Town Goals will be listed and the Standing Committee and Task Groups described with links to any separate web pages maintained by task groups. All web pages should be maintained regularly or else the main V2020 page should be used instead. A page of guidelines for task groups was corrected in several places. The corrected guidelines will be emailed by Joey Glushko to the V2020 list for timely comments.

Task Group Reports

Jane Howard led the group on a tour of the illustrations of town water bodies that had been set up at the back of Town Hall and in the lobby.

The State of the Town and Reception (under Fiscal Resources) went very well.

In spite of the rain, the Spy Pond Trails Day attracted 28 people including 5 emergency responders. Thanks to a dedicated Appalachian Mountain Club crew, three trails were done. A donation of materials from the developers of the former St. Jerome's

property was helpful.

The Diversity Task Group is collaborating with the Human Rights Council this evening on a presentation of Michelle Bates Deakin speaking about her recent book, "Gay Marriage, Real Life," as well as the initial showing of a video made in Arlington 2 years ago on the first day of license-granting for marriages of same sex couples.

The "Settling In" booklets will probably need revision next spring by the Governance Task Group; four boxes are still available.

A Culture and Recreation project has been proposed that would produce a brochure potentially called "Destination Arlington." The brochure would describe resources worth a visit such as the Dallin Museum and Spy Pond.

The Education Task Group has not been active. Josh Lobel was appointed to the Standing Committee.

Town Day has been set for September 9 with a rain date of September 16, 2006. Our planning meeting will be August 23, 2006 at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room of Town Hall Annex.

Changes on Standing Committee. (See new Directory distributed)

Next Standing Committee Meeting.

On June 20, 2006 there will be a Volunteer Recognition Reception beginning with a tour of some of the places the Town has available for event rentals (Reading room in the Library, Town Hall Auditorium and the Selectmen's Hearing Room) led by Patsy Kraemer. Meet on the Robbins Library front steps at 7:00 p.m. Volunteers for all Vision 2020 projects during the last year will be invited and given recognition. Refreshments will follow.

The next meeting of the Standing Committee will be August 23, 2006. Preparations will be made for Town Day on September 9, 2006 (rain date the following Saturday).