



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Nov 11, 2006 Minutes

VISION 2020 STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 8, 2006 MEETING

In attendance: Jane Howard, Joey Glushko, Marc Breslow, Gail Dubois, Andrew Fischer, Gordon Jamieson, Elizabeth Karpati, Josh Lobel, Heidi Sheehan.

- The **minutes** of the October meeting were accepted as presented.
- Gordon Jamieson presented two letters from the **Fiscal Resources Task Group** giving the group's reaction to the proposals of the Fiscal Organization Study Committee. The FRTG favors consolidating most fiscal functions under a Chief Financial Officer reporting to the Town Manager, but keeping the Comptroller separate to provide a source for an independent opinion to the Selectmen.
- Marc Breslow of Sustainable Arlington reported that he presented the Arlington **Sustainability Action Plan (ASAP)** at the October 30 Selectmen's meeting and it was favorably received, though there is no money now to implement the recommendation that the Town hire an energy manager. Most greenhouse gas emissions come from the residents, so that Town government's role must consist of leadership and education. SA and Vision 2020, in turn, must keep an eye on the Town to make sure that it carries out this role.
- Gordon suggested that the energy manager position could be combined with the recently approved recycling coordinator position (which is half-time), or added as a second half-time position.
- Some recent efforts by SA toward energy efficiency have been semi-successful. The inspection department consulted Marc and settled on buying a new vehicle that is more efficient than the one it had planned to get (a 2002 warrant article requires the *most* efficient one that serves the purpose). The PTBC has been reluctant to require highly energy-efficient design in the school rebuilding program on the grounds that it is too costly, but one member, Bill Shea, has now agreed to meet with SA and plans to attend its November 30 meeting. SA should also work with the Capital Planning Committee.
- Josh Lobel reported on plans by SPOT and the School Department for a series of forums on **education**. Possible topics, frequency, and locations were discussed.
- The School Facilities Working Group has been discussing what to do about the Stratton and Thompson schools: renovate only, or rebuild now even though state reimbursement for part of rebuilding costs seems far in the future. The state rates school buildings on a four-point scale: the newly rebuilt schools are "1," Stratton and the high school are "2," and Thompson is a "3."
- The **census survey** for January is in the works. A revised Open Space Plan must be submitted in 2007 and it requires public input, so a large part of the survey questions will deal with open space.