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Vision 2020 Standing Committee 02/17/2004

ARLINGTON VISION 2020 STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 17, 2004 MEETING

Attendance: Jane Howard, Joey Glushko, Heidi Brown, Kathleen Dias, Gail Dubois, Andrew Fischer, Elizabeth Karpati, Leslie Mayer, Angela Olszewski, Jeff Thielman.

The **minutes** of the January 14 meeting were accepted as presented.

Coming events: Candidates' Night is scheduled for Thursday, March 25; the Warrant Review tentatively for Wednesday, April 14. The April 13 meeting of the Standing Committee will be a review session, facilitated by Cavas Gobhai, dealing with how we operate and what we want to achieve.

Trash collection: Kathleen Dias reported that the Selectmen are creating a committee to study alternate ways of paying for it (e.g. PAYT or a trash fee). It will be chaired by John Sanchez and is to report in December 2004. The Vision 2020 Standing Committee is asked to appoint one member. Ms. Dias will appoint Peter Allison.

Census survey: The responses have been heavy and include some angry comments. There is some evidence of "ballot box stuffing;" the responses involved will be tallied separately. Jane will make a preliminary report to the Selectmen in March.

Goose eggs: The Board of Health is asking Vision 2020 for volunteers to help with adding. Only trained volunteers can legally do this. Replacing real eggs with fakes may be a less laborious process than adding the real ones. Maybe volunteers could be asked to make ceramic fake eggs

Symmes: The land disposition agreement for sale to E.A. Fish is now in the works. The whole development process will take about five years.

Task Group Reports:

- **Environment - Reservoir:** The consultant has found a solution that doesn't require cutting the trees! An earthen dam in Minnesota has been made safe by driving interlocking vertical steel plates into it, and this method should cost no more than tree removal. A public meeting to explain the new plans is planned for April.
- **Environment - Spy Pond** had several items to report:
 - It is submitting a warrant article asking for \$15,000 for weed control.
 - Arlington and Belmont have jointly received a federal grant to treat stormwater (mainly by trapping sand) before it enters the Highway Dept's big Rt. 2 drain. The Dept. of Conservation and Recreation is willing to support a reiteration of Arlington's request for the Highway Dept. to remove the sandbar created by the Rt. 2 drain.
 - A subcommittee is about to work on recommendations to improve the path along Rt. 2.
 - The Friends of Spy Pond Park are exploring the possibility of having a regatta this summer, with cooperation of the Spy Pond Committee.
- **Environment - Sustainable Arlington** is continuing work on the sustainability action plan. The energy efficiency working group has a "tool" for estimating CO2 emissions and possible savings. Some members have submitted a warrant article (with signatures of 10 registered voters) requiring LEED certification for private commercial construction, but such a bylaw may not be enforceable.
- **Insurance** is working on a report to Town Meeting. An Arlington HMO for seniors may prove to be financially advantageous.
- **Fiscal Resources** is working on finishing the community comparisons.
- **Diversity:** Vision 2020 has been asked to explore possible sponsors for the diversity banners in Arlington Center.