

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/ REDEVELOPMENT BOARD

Redevelopment Board

The Arlington Redevelopment Board (ARB) is both the planning board under MGL Chapter 41 section 81A and the urban renewal authority for the Town under MGL Chapter 121 (b) and is the Board of Survey, with authority to approve the design of ways for the purposes of ensuring that new building lots can meet zoning frontage and access requirements. As the permit granting authority for projects that fall under Environmental Design Review, the board spends considerable time reviewing applications for certain development projects to ensure that specific zoning standards are met.

The ARB met thirty-seven times in 2011.

Planning & Community Development

The Department of Planning & Community Development prepares and implements long-term and short-range plans related to the Town's natural and built environment. This includes land-use, transportation, economic development, housing, open space and recreation, natural resources, historic preservation, and plans and projects that preserve and enhance Arlington's community character. The Department also administers the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and other grant programs, oversees the day-to-day operations of the Redevelopment Board buildings and other Town-owned, leased buildings, and supports the efforts of Town boards, committees, and commissions charged with planning-related responsibilities.

The Department is staffed by three full-time planners, a part-time planner, a grant administrator and a support staff of one. The staff supports over twenty-four Town committees and boards, plus Town initiatives. The Department administers five times as much value in federal revenue for Town services, not including the federal Weatherization and home rehabilitation programs, as it costs the Town to run the Department.

2011 Highlights & Initiatives

The Symmes Story

An urgent and significant focus for the Department and the Redevelopment Board in 2011 was successfully engaging a developer to resume redevelopment of the former Symmes Hospital site before the special permit for the redevelopment expired. Building permits were issued to Arlington 360 LLC, a partnership between the Upton and Partners and the Jefferson Apartment Group (JAG) in December. JAG bought the mortgage on the Symmes property with its investor, Starwood Capital days after Upton and Partners were designated by the Redevelopment Board in July in a non-binding vote as the preferred developer for the Symmes project. The project will proceed largely as permitted in 2007 with

townhomes, two large multi-unit buildings and with the addition of an expanded public park and a proposed assisted living facility in place of a few townhome structures.



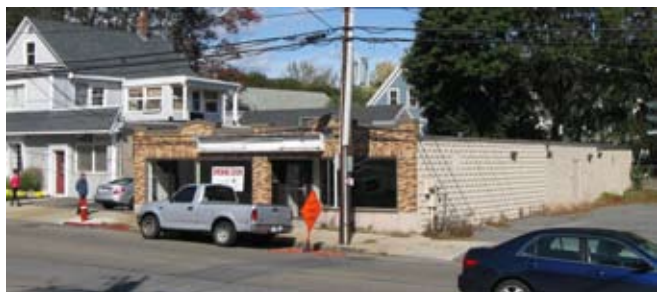
Arlington 360 LLC representatives Sandi Silk, Jake Upton at Symmes foreclosure auction November 30, 2011

Town Meeting had voted in 2002 to purchase the former Symmes hospital site and turn it over to the Redevelopment Board for redevelopment under the Board's urban renewal authority. After a public process to determine the best use, a development firm, EAFish was selected. EAFish then sold a major interest in the project to apartment developer/operator JPI. JPI then cleared the site, but during the economic downturn that followed in 2007 through 2009, JPI, in turn, withdrew from the project and sought buyers for the Symmes project. Several false starts ensued with interested developers until 2011 when JAG, composed of former JPI personnel, informed the Town that they had entered an agreement with the bank holding JPI's mortgage to purchase the mortgage and foreclose on the property, thereby becoming the owner, subject to the Town's Land Disposition Agreement. The Redevelopment Board, with the support of the Board of Selectmen, then undertook a comparative analysis of the proposals of four developers vying for the Symmes project. They chose Upton and Partners for their proposal's financial viability, commitment to sell some units as home-ownership condominiums to test the market for conversion to condo from rental units, their commitment to provide affordable housing units, the inclusion of a proposed assisted living facility reflective of the medical use legacy once sought by Town Meeting for the site, and for the expansion of publicly-accessible parkland.

Special Permits

The Redevelopment Board issued a Special Permit for Environmental Design Review for a branch of Leader Bank at 1201-1203 Massachusetts Avenue, in a retail building vacated by a former video rental store.

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1201-1203 Massachusetts Avenue, proposed Leader Bank branch

The Redevelopment Board also issued a Special Permit for Environmental Design Review for signage and lighting at 30-50 Mill Street, the former Brigham's Ice Cream headquarters, where ground was broken in 2011 for a 116-unit apartment building, a separate retail/office building, retail kiosk, improvements to the Town-owned park along the Mill Brook, and provision of public access across the site to the park from the Minuteman Bikepath.



Construction of apartments at 30-50 Mill Street

The former Hollywood Video space at Alewife Plaza in East Arlington was the subject of Redevelopment Board action in 2011 to encourage re-tenanting of that vacancy. The Environmental Design Review Special Permit for that space at 25 Massachusetts Avenue was amended to allow restaurant use. The original Special Permit for the development of the plaza prohibited the restaurant use. Restaurant use is allowed by right in the zoning district.

Transportation

The Department continued to work with the Director of Public Works and the community on the Massachusetts Avenue Corridor Project, presenting a meeting on 75% design for the Mass Ave Review Committee and holding a drop-in session in an East Arlington restaurant for business-owner input in developing the 75% design. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation

Approved the 25% design of the Mass Ave Corridor Project in 2011.

Department staff worked with the Town Manager to secure a voting seat for the Town on the Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), the regional body that determines transportation planning and allocation of federal and some state funds for transportation projects in the Boston metropolitan area. Department staff also chaired the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) Inner Core Committee.

The Department secured federal Clean Air Mobility Program (CLAMP) grant funding for improving the safe, efficient circulation of drivers, walkers and cyclists through the Route 60/Mystic Street/Massachusetts Avenue intersection. It also secured a tri-community grant for signage along the Minuteman Bikeway.

Department staff also developed recommendations with community input to the MBTA's Key Bus Routes—Route 77 bus improvements. The recommendations were approved by the Board of Selectmen.

Affordable Housing

The rent regulatory agreements for the affordable units under construction at 30-50 Mill Street were successfully negotiated by Department staff for approval by Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development. Department staff also received approval from the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development to allow local preference for 70% of these affordable units.

Community Development Block Grant

Arlington received \$1.1 million dollars in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds that were allocated for public and community nonprofit services, public facility projects, and for housing and planning activities. Funding for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's CDBG program has been reduced in each of the last two years. This combined with stricter enforcement of eligibility guidelines has meant for increased stress on the budgets of the Departments and Arlington service agencies that rely on CDBG.

Town-owned Leased Properties

The capital management and day-to-day management of the seven buildings was a primary duty of the Assistant Director position, which was not funded in the budget in 2011 as a cost savings.

In addition to major capital and maintenance projects, routine maintenance is completed on a daily basis by the Department's Building Craftsman, primarily at the Central School building, the Gibbs School building, the Jefferson Cutter House, and 23 Maple Street. Most routine maintenance at the Crosby and Parmenter School buildings and at the Dallin Library building is performed and paid directly by the tenants of those buildings. The Town's facilities maintenance staff also helps the De-

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partment's Building Craftsman maintain the buildings.

The Redevelopment Board (ARB) manages three buildings and the Planning Department is responsible for day-to-day management of four additional buildings owned and leased by the Town for the Town Manager and Board of Selectmen. These seven buildings have over 180,000 gross square feet of space valued at over \$20 million, housing twenty-three tenants paying over \$1 million in rents. The seven buildings consist of four former schools, one former library, and two historic houses. Town Meeting voted in 2011 to sell the former Crosby School on Winter Street, and to negotiate a long-term lease for the former Parmenter School.

PERMANENT TOWN BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Permanent Town Building Committee (PTBC) was established by Town Meeting to oversee the design and construction of new buildings and major renovations for Town of Arlington properties. The committee is comprised of citizen members, appointed jointly by the chairs of the Selectmen, Finance Committee, and School Committee in addition to the Town Manager, Superintendent of Schools, and Director of Public Works, or their designees.

2011 Activities

1. Community Safety Building Phase 1 (improvements to the terrace deck): Project completed spring 2011. Project budget \$1,610,000; final cost \$1,490,000.

2. Community Safety Building Phase 2 (envelope repair): Project out to bid January 2012. Construction funding will be sought at Special Town Meeting within the 2012 Annual Town Meeting.

3. Central Fire Station Phase 1 (emergency envelope repairs): Project substantially complete July 2011; close out expected first quarter of 2012.

4. Central Fire Station Phase 2 (interior renovation): PTBC request for funding of Final Design and Construction Documents forwarded to Capital Planning Committee. Project will start when funding approved by Town Meeting.

5. Highland Fire Station (envelope repair and interior renovation): Project substantially complete July 2011; close out expected first quarter of 2012. LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver Certification is being pursued.

6. Stratton School Phase 1 (new roof, new transformer, electrical upgrades, and interior improvements): project completed February 2011.

7. Stratton School Phase 2 (new windows, new boiler and interior improvements): Project substantially complete August 2011; close out expected first quarter 2012. Reimbursement to a maximum of \$738,000

granted through the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Green School Repair Program.

8. Thompson School: The PTBC along with other Town officials, School Department officials, and Thompson community representatives comprise the Thompson School Building Committee in conformance with regulations promulgated by the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA). Construction of a new school with a budget of \$20.77 million approved by MSBA. Demolition of old school began 12/19/2011. New school out to bid February 2012. Construction funding to be sought at 2012 Annual Town Meeting.



Thompson School Demolition

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

In 2011 the Zoning Board of Appeals as prescribed in Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40A, The Zoning Act, and, also, as further clarified by the Town's Zoning Bylaw, heard and rendered decisions on twenty-two petitions. Since its inception in 1946 the Zoning Board of Appeal has heard and rendered decisions on over 3300 + appeals.

Petitions heard by the Board include Variances, Special Permits, Appeals from the Decision of the Building Inspector, and comprehensive permits (Chapter 40B).

The Zoning Board of Appeals is comprised of five regular members: the Chair and four appointees. For any decision to be granted, the vote of the five-member board must carry a super majority. All Hearings are open to the public and are generally held on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month, as needed. The meetings are usually held in the conference room located on the second floor of the Town Hall Annex. All hearings are advertised in The Arlington Advocate for two consecutive weeks and posted on the Town Clerk's Bulletin Board at least three weeks prior to the hearing date. Hearings are also posted on the Town website and abutters to the property are notified by mail. To receive ZBA Agendas by email, subscribe online at

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arlingtonma.gov/subscribe. The Rules and Regulations of the Zoning Board of Appeals are on file in the Office of the Town Clerk and in the Zoning Board of Appeals' Office at 51 Grove Street.

Petitions Heard by ZBA	
Petitions for Variance	2
Applications for Special Permits	16
Appeal of Decision of Inspector of Buildings	0
Amendments to SP/Variances	2
Comprehensive Permits	0
Total	
Total Petitions filed with Town Clerk	20
Total Hearings continued by the Board	5
Total Petitions withdrawn	3

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Arlington Conservation Commission (ACC) is required by state and local laws to protect and preserve wetlands and waterways and their surrounding areas. The ACC is comprised of seven (7) volunteer members and one (1) or more volunteer associate members, who are appointed by the Town Manager with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, and a part-time, paid administrator. At meetings (twice a month) and through on-site visits, commission members work to ensure that all construction and development projects, residential and commercial, that may alter any wetlands, floodplains, rivers, streams, ponds and/or lakes are in compliance with state and local regulations. The ACC also protects and manages the Town's Conservation Lands and natural resources.

Regulatory Activities

The ACC is mandated to protect wetlands, waterways, water supplies, fisheries, wildlife, and wildlife habitat as well as regulate activities in a floodplain through its administration of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Arlington General Bylaw for Wetlands Protection. ACC members regularly seek continuing education to ensure legal compliance with frequently changing regulations and to assist applicants through the regulatory process.

In 2011 the ACC convened twenty-five (25) public meetings, and provided coordination, monitoring, permit review, and consultation on numerous residential and municipal developments around Town. The board issued ten (10) Permits/Orders of Conditions, one (1) Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Determination, six (6) Certificates of Compliance, four (4) Enforcements,

and four (4) Determinations of Applicability.

Conservation Activities

Arlington Reservoir - A native plant wildlife habitat garden was installed in 2011 by the Arlington Vision 2020 Reservoir Committee. The Conservation Commission provided some financial support for this activity with a grant from the Conservation Stewardship Fund managed by the Arlington Land Trust. In addition, over 250 tons of invasive water chestnuts were mechanically harvested this summer supported by the Arlington Waterbodies Fund and with assistance from DPW. This work will need to continue but at reduced levels in future years.

Land Stewards - Our volunteer citizen organization, Arlington Land Stewards (ALS) has assisted in managing twenty-four (24) Town-owned conservation lands comprising approximately thirty (30) acres. Land stewards monitor, coordinate, and maintain (with permission from the ACC) conservation land of their choice, often in their immediate neighborhood or sometimes elsewhere in Town. Each land steward is provided with a stewardship handbook listing the location of conservation lands, conservation land regulations as well as problem/solution management information. The handbook is available online at arlingtonma.gov at the Conservation webpage.

Mt. Gilboa - After the October storm, a local arborist graciously volunteered to clear trails of excess woody debris on this Town property.

Elizabeth Island - The Arlington Land Trust purchased Elizabeth Island, located in Spy Pond, and granted a Conservation Restriction to the ACC which will be held jointly with MassAudubon to help ensure Elizabeth Island will remain in its natural condition in perpetuity. In 2011 ACC also reviewed a baseline survey of the property completed by Audubon.

Cooke's Hollow - The Conservation Commission along with the Cemetery Commission and Planning Department joined together to develop a restoration plan for Cooke's Hollow. The plan may be seen at online at arlingtonma.gov/planning.

Mill Brook Linear Park - The Open Space Committee with involvement of the ACC and others organized a group to study the Mill Brook area with the goal of enhancing the public use and awareness of this natural and historical resource. Planning for Mill Brook goes back to the 1920's but there is still much to do. This project also ties into Cooke's Hollow, a pocket park next to Mystic Street which contains a section of the brook.

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Arlington's Great Meadows – In 2011 the Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows (FoAGM) continued to sponsor regular public nature events. The major activity of the year was the restoration of several acres of upland meadow land with the help of many volunteers. Information about FoAGM's activities and their annual report is available at www.foagm.org.

Meadowbrook Park and Mystic Valley Parkway – In May 2011 land stewards, ACC members, and others carried out a cleanup of the conservation area. This park collects many items that wash down Mill Brook each year.

Mystic Lakes-Mid-Lakes Dam Project – The ACC reviewed reconstruction of the dam located between Upper and Lower Mystic Lakes. A fish and an eel ladder were installed and opened in 2010. They seem to be working better than designed to link these waterway habitats together and allow expanded spawning of migratory species. This project is nearly complete.

Alewife Reservation Greenway Project – Construction began in 2010 on the new pathway and redesign of the Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) parkland adjacent to Alewife Brook. This long-awaited project includes new stormwater gardens, landscaping and pathways, and will hopefully foster further attention and care to the Alewife Brook. This project is nearing completion.

Walking Book – Now out of print, the ACC is revising this popular guidebook to open spaces and walking tours in Arlington.

Spy Pond phragmites control project – The ACC worked with the Spy Pond Committee and the waterfront property owners to coordinate a program for control of the Giant Reed which is currently populating many areas of shoreline around the pond. This approach will involve a multi-year program including controlled spraying by a licensed applicator, Aquatic Control Technology, and volunteer winter cutting events. The program must balance the plant control with protection of the threatened Englemann's Sedge and creating a healthy shoreline environment with a diverse and sustainable plant community.

Future Goals

The ACC will continue to encourage, support, and assist the various volunteer and environmental advocacy groups that are dedicated to better preserving the Town's precious conservation lands and other open spaces within its immediate borders as well as those directly adjacent to it. These groups include, among others: Arlington Land Stewards, Arlington Land Trust,

Open Space Committee, Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows, Mystic River Watershed Association, and the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions.

The ACC will work actively to support all efforts directed at preventing raw sewage from entering Alewife Brook. The ACC would like to see the Alewife Brook restored to a healthy, fishable, and swimmable waterway in the very near future. To do so, will be a significant challenge for the many parties involved in the betterment of Alewife Brook. Yet the ACC believes this goal is attainable.

The ACC, in working with the Open Space Committee and the Arlington Land Trust, hopes to identify and, when available, acquire additional open space as protected "conservation land" to benefit residents of the Town.

Recognitions

The ACC sincerely thanks all individuals and organizations that contributed directly or indirectly to the activities of its forty-sixth (46th) year. Many special thanks go to the scores of volunteers who came out for cleanup projects, assisted as land stewards or participated in the many Friends groups that work to preserve our natural resources and heritage.

Memberships

The ACC would like to thank Ellen Reed for her years of service and helpful input and enthusiasm. The ACC welcomes Chris Naylor, Eileen Coleman and Michelle Durocher as its newest members.

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

The Open Space Committee (OSC) was established by Town Meeting in 1996. Members include concerned citizens and representatives of key Town departments and commissions. The Committee meets monthly to exchange ideas and discuss ways to protect and maintain the Town's open space and recreation resources. The Committee serves an oversight function but does not have direct management responsibility for Town properties. Its main purpose is to enhance communication and coordination among those entities that do have ownership and management authority. In addition, the OSC seeks to raise broad-based community concerns and to advocate for the protection, stewardship, and appropriate uses of the Town's open spaces.

Open Space Plan

The Committee's primary responsibility is to prepare the Town's official Open Space and Recreation Plan every five years, monitor its provisions and goals, and document accomplishments. The current Plan

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originally covered the period 2007–2012 as approved in December 2007 by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) Division of Conservation Services (DCS). In February 2010 the state approved the extension of an amended Action Plan (Chapter 9) until 2014. Printed copies of the Plan are available at the Robbins Library, Planning Department office, Town Clerk's office, and on the Town website at arlingtonma.gov/openspace.

Mill Brook Initiative

A subcommittee of OSC and other Town representatives began meeting in March 2009 to study the feasibility of developing a Mill Brook Linear Park. The brook travels nearly three miles, parallel to both Massachusetts Avenue and the Minuteman Bikeway, and represents an important ecological and historical feature of the Town. Enhancement of and improved access to existing open spaces are key goals of the Open Space and Recreation Plan, and in 2009 projects at Cooke's Hollow and Wellington Park brought renewed interest to the brook and the linear park concept. These are just two of the Town-owned facilities that abut Mill Brook, thus offering public entry points for greater access to the corridor. Other properties are the Arlington Reservoir, Hurd Field, Arlington High School and fields, Buzzell Field, Mt Pleasant Cemetery, and Meadowbrook Park.

In April 2010 the Mill Brook Linear Park Study Group produced a report that outlines current conditions, challenges, and opportunities for seven sections along the Mill Brook corridor. The report proposed linking these properties together in a greenway with pedestrian facilities and other improvements to help restore the environmental and visual qualities of Mill Brook. This work involved reviewing parcel lines, lot ownership, and current uses, as well as photo-documenting the conditions of the brook and its nearby built neighborhood. There are more than 100 parcels of land along Mill Brook, totaling nearly 150 acres. The Town owns sixteen parcels, accounting for about thirty-five percent of the land abutting the brook; the other sixty-five percent is in private ownership with a variety of residential, commercial, and industrial uses.

The Mill Brook group has distributed both printed and electronic versions of the report to many Town officials, departments, and commissions for reference as a policy planning document when issues related to the brook arise. In May the Committee chair made a short presentation to Town Meeting and several maps and photo boards were displayed in the Town Hall lobby. Many people expressed interest in the concept, especially those not well acquainted with the brook and its environs. The report is available for review on the Town Web site at arlingtonma.gov/openspace.

The group is continuing to work closely with the Planning Department and Redevelopment Board in conjunction with their ongoing efforts to enhance economic development opportunities and overlay zoning revisions in Arlington. The Town GIS coordinator and Town Engineer provided valuable technical assistance with mapping and other data collection related to the brook and the abutters.

The former Brigham's site offered opportunities for OSC members to attend ARB meetings about that site in order to reinforce attention to the brook and adjacent parklands as part of the redevelopment process. The site developer agreed to perform a number of landscape enhancements to the area and construction began in late 2011.

Other Activities

The Committee continues to monitor and contribute to a wide range of open space projects that affect the Town and its residents' quality of life, including: the program for Off-Leash Dog Areas in Arlington Parks and a fenced dog park at Thorndike Field supported with private grant funding; the state Department of Conservation and Recreation's Alewife Greenway Path, now under construction as part of the larger Alewife Reservation Master Plan; the Cemetery Expansion Committee's explorations of alternative burial options and locations and the related Cooke's Hollow Feasibility Study that looked at engineering, landscaping, historic interpretation, and maintenance issues, as well as possible use as a memorial park; and the development of the Wildlife Habitat Garden at the Arlington Reservoir, funded in part by private donations with assistance from the Department of Public Works.

Other timely issues addressed by the committee during 2011 included: support for the Planning Department's application for Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) funding to undertake a Town-wide master plan; various water bodies and invasive plant projects, such as the management of phragmites in Spy Pond and harvesting of water chestnuts in the Reservoir; and the Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows project to restore the upland meadows. New opportunities for enhancement of public open spaces include the Transportation Advisory Committee's redesign of Downing Square in Arlington Heights; the creation of a rain garden in Spy Pond Park, and plans for gardens in other Town properties; and the reactivated initiatives of the Tree Committee.

Ongoing open space concerns include the future land uses at Busa Farm on the Lexington border next to the Arlington Reservoir and beach. OSC members continue to monitor the situation and support the strong consensus for continued farming activities with opportunities for educational and community involvement and some affordable housing. The future of the Mugar

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property in East Arlington is also of concern because of potential flooding and traffic problems if the land were to be developed. The entire Alewife region is susceptible to such problems due to existing and planned development in neighboring Cambridge and Belmont.

As part of its community education goals, OSC participated in Town Day in September 2011, as it does each year, displaying maps of local open spaces, copies of the Open Space and Recreation Plan and the Mill Brook report, flyers about the Conservation Commission's Land Stewards Program and invasive plants, and a sign-up sheet for residents interested in getting more involved. Committee members also were involved with the EcoFest ecological gardening event at Town Hall in March 2011. Several members are also contributing to a revision of the 1994 book, *Walking the Open Spaces of Arlington*, which is being coordinated by the Conservation Commission for both print and Web-based distribution.

Future Goals

The Committee will continue to monitor and work on specific elements of the Action Plan outlined in the updated 2007–2014 Open Space and Recreation Plan and collaborate with other Town entities and community groups to advocate for the proper maintenance and management of the Town's valuable open space and recreation resources.

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The goal of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) is to improve the quality of life in Arlington by improving safety, mobility, and access for people using all modes of transportation, and contribute to improving the environment and public health. In this effort, the TAC works closely with the Arlington Police Department's Traffic Division, the Public Works Department, and the Planning Department.

The Traffic Authority for Arlington is the Board of Selectmen. The TAC was established by the Board of Selectmen in the spring of 2001 to advise them on transportation matters. TAC is comprised of resident and business members in the community.

The TAC continues to be very concerned by the limited Police resources for traffic and parking enforcement. Transportation management requires the Three Es: Engineering, Education, and Enforcement. All three are essential to maintain a high quality of life in Arlington. Enforcement is the weakest at this time.

Major Activities

Arlington Schools - The TAC continues its multiyear plan to improve traffic and pedestrian safety around schools. Phase 1, providing inexpensive safety improvements (paint and signs) for the public elementa-

ry schools, is complete. This effort included designating and improving preferred walking routes, reducing conflicts between students and autos at drop-off and pick-up periods, and designating 20 mph School Zones. Phase 2 is underway and requires more expensive infrastructure improvements such as adding or repairing sidewalks and handicap ramps along the preferred walking routes, and improving traffic flow for drop-off and pick-up. The TAC is seeking funds for these items. The Dallin School was selected as one of the first five elementary schools in the state to receive infrastructure improvements (sidewalk, handicap ramps, paint and signs) as part of the Federal Safe Routes to Schools Program. This project was completed this year. In 2012 we began an effort to improve the pedestrian environment and traffic flow around the Ottoson Middle School.

Crossing Flags Pilot Program - TAC initiated a pilot program to provide hand held flags at three locations near elementary schools, to provide more visibility for students crossing busy streets on the way to school. The three pilot locations are Park Avenue Extension at Morris Street (near Peirce School), Gray Street at Pine Ridge Road (near Brackett School) and Rhinecliff Street at Dow Avenue (near Dallin School). The program was partially funded by the State of Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security. Early indications are that the crossing flags are useful. More locations may be added in the coming year.

Arlington Center Safe Travel Project - Working with the Planning Department, DPW and TAC, the Town applied for funds from MassDOT under the Clean Air and Mobility Program (CLAMP) to improve safety and mobility for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians at the intersection of Route 60 and Mass Ave. The Town hired Howard/Stein-Hudson to help design and engineer improvements to this intersection. Goals include reducing congestion and wait time for vehicles, reducing the crossing distance for pedestrians, and providing a safe and visible bikeway connection through the intersection.

Mass. Ave. Corridor Project - Phase 1 of this project is an upgrade of Massachusetts Avenue between the Cambridge city line and Pond Lane for safety and streetscape improvements. Design work began in 2009. The Town's engineering consultant, Fay, Spoford & Thorndike, conducted extensive traffic analyses and then developed a plan for a more organized roadway that balances the needs of pedestrians, motorists, bicyclists, and transit users. The 25% design was approved by the State Highway Division this year. More detailed engineering, and landscape and streetscape design are underway. Members of the TAC serve on the Review Committee for the project.

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Ongoing Projects

- Mass. Ave. at Water Street and Peg Spengler Way (Robbins Library). Recommendations for improving pedestrian safety are being tested.
- 30-50 Mill Street. Working with developer on traffic mitigation implementation.
- 837 Mass. Ave. (CVS). Follow up study of traffic conditions to assess the need for further mitigation.
- Mass. Ave. at Appleton Street/Appleton Place. Working with MassDOT to assess safety issues at this intersection, located near the Ottoson Middle School.
- Lake Street Corridor. New project to develop alternatives for improving safety and mobility along Lake Street.
- Downing Square. Design and engineering of this complicated intersection is complete, and construction should begin in 2012.
- Green Line Extension. TAC continues to advocate for the Green Line Extension to Route 16 where it can be most useful to residents of Arlington.
- Advocate Educational Articles. Joint project with the Bicycle Advisory Committee and Walking in Arlington to publish monthly columns in the Arlington Advocate on transportation issues.

Reports

TAC studied and made recommendations to the Board of Selectmen or the Arlington Redevelopment Board on the following:

- Oakland Avenue, Gray Street and Cliff Street intersection
- Traffic Calming on Brunswick Road
- Stop Sign Request for Everett and Raleigh Streets.
- Thorndike Field Wayfinding
- North Union Street Parking
- MBTA Key Bus Routes Program, recommendations for the 77 bus route
- Crosswalk on Herbert Road at Magnolia Playground
- Hardy School: School Zone and Parking Changes
- Crosswalk on Herbert Road at Magnolia Playground
- Crosswalk at Mass. Ave./Water St./Spengler Way

In June of 2011, the TAC celebrated its 10th Anniversary as a Committee.

BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee (ABAC) was appointed by the Board of Selectmen in 1996 to advise the Town on improving local bicycling conditions for both residents and visitors. The all-volunteer Committee promotes all forms of safe bicycling on Town roadways and the Minuteman Bikeway, from recreational riding to using the bicycle for transportation and running errands.

ABAC's annual events include the ABAC Winter Social, the BIKE-Arlington Tour, and ABAC's Bicycling Information booth at Town Day in September.

ABAC meets monthly, usually the third Wednesday of the month, to discuss bicycle-related topics and issues in Town. If you are interested in local bicycling matters please attend an upcoming ABAC meeting. Meetings are posted in advance and open to the public. For more information, visit our website at www.abac.arlington.ma.us, contact the Department of Planning and Community Development at 781-316-3090, or e-mail tonkinc@comcast.net.

2011 Highlights

Over the last year the Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee has worked on the following:

Organized our winter social at the Whittemore-Robbins House in February and enjoyed a presentation about the East Coast Greenway and how to plan for more bikeways and green corridors.

Members have been involved in the CLAMP (Clean Air and Mobility Program) proposal for the Arlington Center Safe Travel Project at the Mass. Ave./Route 60/Bikeway intersection. The report will be presented soon. The Committee members were present for the bidding process for the grant and in the ensuing discussions and public presentations after the grant had been awarded.

The Committee has been active in soliciting locations for new bike racks around town and in supervising their installation. Many of these racks have seen good use.

One of the ABAC members organized a spring cleanup of the Bikeway. This was very successful and had a wide cross section of local people picking up trash and detritus along the Arlington length of the Bikeway. Having learned our lessons from previous years, the cleanup was well organized and publicized in various groups, including the schools, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. It also was planned to take place before the vegetation "leafed out" improving visibility and access to the trash.

The annual Bike Tour of Arlington took place in the spring and, as per usual of late, was rather wet. Never the less we were able to show some people new ways around Arlington and parts of the Town that they had not seen before.

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An attempt to organize an information booth and bike safety check in the Bikeway was also thwarted by the rain. (We are overdue to have good weather at our next event!)

Members of the Committee have been involved in the discussion around the rebuilding of Mass. Ave. in the East Arlington section of Town.

The Committee has been involved in the ongoing work to update the Minuteman Bikeway Map, replacing the current map that is now out of print and unavailable, and making the new map available to the public and online. The project is funded by a DCR Recreational Trails Grant awarded to the three Bikeway communities; the program is entitled "Navigating the Minuteman Bikeway."

The Committee has been active in starting discussions with Lexington and Bedford in harmonizing signage along the whole length of the Bikeway, along with common policies that will give the whole trail a cohesive appearance.

ABAC members participated in three statewide bike and pedestrian counts on the Bikeway at its junction with Swann Pace. The numbers, available from the Planning Department, again reflect just how popular the BikeWay is as a multi-modal path.

ABAC again had a booth at Town Day and used the opportunity to sign up about 30 new people to our email list, tell people what we do, and talk to people about cycling in and around Arlington. We also used the opportunity to do a little fund raising which helps offset the cost of such things as the booth itself and our winter social. As we did not pick the date, the weather was excellent!

Members of the Committee have recently met with the Town Manager to solicit support for applying for the national designation as a "Bike Friendly Community". Support was enthusiastically given and members of the Committee are actively compiling the data needed to support our application to the League of American Cyclists. This application is nearly complete and it is anticipated that the application will be submitted in February.

New member, Doug Greenfield has joined the executive board and is currently working on a new website for ABAC. The website should be up and running shortly. We currently have one open slot and are endeavoring to recruit a new member.

Members of the committees have been active in creating a series of transportation related articles entitled "Moving Together." The series is published in the local papers and on the Town's website about once a month. Our members have contributed to the discussion of the topics presented and the written bike themed articles.

Members of the Committee have also been involved in the pilot program of Safe Routes to School at

the Hardy School.

We thank the Selectmen and the Town for their support of our efforts. We plan to continue our hard work in the next year to make Arlington a bicycle friendly community.

Going forward, the Committee hopes to fill our vacant positions. We intend to get involved in the designation of Arlington as one of League of American Cyclists' Bike Friendly Communities. As part of this process we hope to develop a Bike Plan for Arlington.

HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Arlington Housing Authority (AHA) is proud of its distinction of being the largest single provider of affordable housing in the community.

The Arlington Housing Authority manages 1,156 housing units: 520 units for elderly and/or residents with disabilities, 180 units designated for family housing, a home for 13 mentally challenged residents, one domestic violence unit, and 442 vouchers that help participants live in privately-owned dwellings throughout the community.

This year marks the Arlington Housing Authority's sixty-third year offering housing to low and moderate income persons either through direct housing in government-owned developments or subsidized housing in privately owned dwellings.

The Authority is a quasi-governmental agency that administers these programs sponsored by the State or Federal government. Properties owned by the Authority are exempt from local property taxes, yet the Authority annually pays the maximum "in lieu of" taxes as allowed by state statute.

Board of Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners of the Authority is the policy making body of the agency. The five members of the Arlington Housing Authority's Board of Commissioners are: Chairman Richard B. Murray, Vice-Chairman Teresa J. Walsh, and Members Nicholas Mitropoulos, Daniel F. Brosnan, and Brian J. Connor

The Executive Director, John J. Griffin, is appointed by the Board of Commissioners and manages the day to day operations of the Authority.

Year in Review

In 2011 the Arlington Housing Authority suffered a tragic loss of its Chairman, Brian R. Greeley. Brian was an active chairman and a strong housing leader and advocate for the people of Arlington. Because of Brian's leadership, the AHA created and began a domestic violence program which we will be expanding in 2012 by adding a second unit to the program. Brian was also instrumental in working with the Town of Arlington with the renovation of the Plaza located at the Cusack

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Terrace building. The plaza was completely renovated and a new covered seating area added for the benefit of the residents of Cusack Terrace. The Arlington Housing Authority Board has voted to name and dedicate the plaza as the Brian R. Greeley Memorial Plaza in his honor. A ceremony is planned for early 2012.

In a joint meeting with the Arlington Board of Selectman and the remaining members of the Arlington Housing Authority Board, Daniel F. Brosnan was appointed to fill the vacancy created by the passing of Brian R. Greeley.

The AHA continued in its efforts to modernize its properties and programs to better serve the needs of the community in the expansion of its tenant services support programs, and worked on creative partnerships with many housing groups and service providers in the community.

Properties

The AHA continues to make energy efficiency a major priority at all of our buildings. By bringing gas to the 144 unit Hauser building and the 72 units at Drake Village it was able to remove a 2,400 gallon electric hot water system and replace it with new energy efficient gas hot water system. A new gas hot water system was also added to the 100 unit Chestnut Manor building and the Authority was awarded funds to study the possibility of a Cogen System at the 133 unit all electric Winslow Tower building.

We continue to take advantage of the NSTAR low income energy program by adding new efficient hallway lighting replacing the old fluorescent lighting fixtures in all of our elderly buildings.

Safety and Security has been upgraded at all of our buildings by working with the Fire Department. All our senior buildings are now using the new wireless technology for our fire alarm systems. Message boards have been installed in all our properties so we can notify residents of issues or just to keep them up to date on programs and happenings in each of the buildings.

Lobby areas and hallways were updated and painted. Pictures and new flat panel TV's were added in the community rooms. We look forward to continuing the modernization in 2012 by replacing roofs at the Drake Cottages updating the rear entrance at Chestnut Manor as well as continuing our sidewalk replacement program in the Menotomy Manor family development.

Community Partnerships

2011 was a great year in expanding our partnerships with a number of community service program providers. The Authority continued to take advantage of the Community Work Program (CWP) sponsored by the Middlesex Sheriff's Office. For the eleventh year in a row, inmates under the supervision of correctional personnel assisted the AHA maintenance staff in its spring

and fall cleanup efforts.

Minuteman Senior Services has been so successful at our Drake Village location by providing services to our seniors and a meals program. The AHA Board of Commissioners along with Minuteman has agreed to work with Tufts on a health care exercise and nutrition program at our facilities. In partnership with Minuteman, we have provided an emergency senior domestic violence unit in one of our properties.

In 2009 the Arlington Boys and Girls Club and Fidelity House opened their afternoon programs in our Menotomy Manor Development. The programs provide homework help, games, and programs for our young residents of Menotomy Manor. These programs have been extremely successful throughout 2011, with a large number of residents participating.

Once again Operation Success continues to be a major factor in improving grades by providing homework help and guidance for the residents of Menotomy Manor. In 2011 more families participated than ever before. Janet Maguire and Peggy Regan run this program with a large group of young volunteers.

The new Domestic Violence Program created by the Arlington Housing Authority, the Board of Health, and the Arlington Police Department began in 2011. The AHA was awarded funding through the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) for the purchases of a 2 bedroom unit for temporary housing for victims of domestic violence. Funding for a second unit has been awarded to the AHA and it is anticipated to be purchased in 2012.

The Arlington Housing Authority Board would like to thank all our partners for their hard work and we look forward to many new and exciting ideas being put into action in the coming year.

Challenges Ahead

Many of our 520 elderly disabled housing units were built in the 1950's, 1960's and 1970' and are in desperate need of modernization and energy efficient systems as well as roofs, windows, kitchens, and bath upgrades. The majority of them are heated by electricity with the Authority paying all the utilities while the tenants pay 30% of their income towards rent, in accordance with state regulations. With many of our residence living on social security or having little or no income, there is little hope that the Housing Authority will be able to make the necessary modernization needed in the coming years without help.

Because the AHA serves the lowest of income residents, 95% of them would not be able to afford the rent in the new affordable housing units being constructed in Town. On our current waitlist 86% of the applicants have incomes below \$10,000 and many of them receive only temporary assistance in the amount of \$3,000 per year.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Administrative Services

The Housing Authority continues to be a member of the MassNAHRO Centralized Section 8 Wait List program. The list is now open to all daily. Arlington residents are given a preference.

The AHA's website, www.arlingtonhousing.org, provides valuable information to those wishing to learn more about the AHA and its programs. You may now also search for and become a fan of the Arlington Housing Authority on Facebook.

Wait Lists

Stated-Aided Elderly/Handicap One Bedroom Units

Arlington Applicants: 69

Non-Arlington Applicants: 174

Total 243

State-Aided Family 2-Bedroom Units

Arlington Applicants: 7

Non-Arlington Applicants: 250

Total 257

State-Aided Family 3-Bedroom Units

Arlington Applicants: 5

Non-Arlington Applicants: 142

Total 147

Section 8 Wait List

Arlington Applicants: *438

** Because Arlington is on a centralized wait list, the Section 8 wait list is extremely long; therefore, only Arlington residents are listed for this program*

State Program Rents

Average Elderly/Handicap Monthly Rent: \$382/month (includes heat and lights)

Average Family Monthly Rent: \$469/month (tenant pays utilities)

Tenant Services

Beth Hosman and Mary Maher, Tenant Service Coordinators, continued their active participation in monthly meetings with the presidents of the tenant associations. These regular meetings help ensure communication between our agency and residents benefit of our elderly tenants.

Property Manager, Janet Doyle, relocated her office to the Menotomy Manor Family Development. This helped the AHA's effort to better communicate with residents and to better manage our properties and has had a very positive effect. Residents really appreciate her efforts in making the Manor a great place to live.

For the second time the AHA participated in National Night Out at Menotomy Manor. National Night Out

is the celebration between the AHA, The Arlington Police Department, and the community. It is a going away celebration of crime and drugs in our community. The AHA would like to thank Chief of Police Fred Ryan, Officer James Smith, and the entire Arlington Police Department for their efforts with the Arlington Housing Authority.



National Night Out

Annual Cookouts

The annual cookouts for the elderly and disabled residents were held in each of our four elderly/handicap developments. The Cruise theme was a complete success. The AHA salutes the following 2011 Tenant of the Year award recipients: Charles Clement (Drake Village), Pat Porter and Marilyn Ruma (Chestnut Manor), Claire Caggiano (Winslow Towers), and Janice Ferrone (Cusack Terrace). Tenants balloted for the winners in their respective building. The success of this outing was the direct result of the combined efforts of both Maintenance and Administration staff.

Personnel

The Arlington Housing Authority would like to thank all its employees for their dedication throughout the year. We further would like recognize the service of the Phil Whitney who retired at the beginning of this year from our maintenance department after 31 dedicated years of service to the AHA. Phil was an outstanding housing authority employee. We wish him well in his retirement. He will be missed by all.

VISION 2020

Background

Recognizing the need in Arlington for broad, long-range planning, in June of 1990 the Town created the Vision 2020 Steering Committee, made up of Town leadership, Town employees and townspeople. This committee then launched a two year exploration process which resulted in the formulation of goals, strategies and actions to address this planning need.

Following the recommendation of the Steering Committee for a more permanent structure,

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Town Meeting created the Vision 2020 Standing Committee as an official Committee of the Town on June 8, 1992. With the motto "A Proud Past, A Focused Future," the committee was charged to

"...ensure the long range planning process initiated by the Town in 1990, ...also to create, implement, monitor, and review methods for open, town-wide public participation in the Vision 2020 process."

Town Goals covering the areas of Business, Communication, Community and Citizen Service, Culture and Recreation, Diversity, Education, Environment, Fiscal Resources, and Governance were adopted as by-law at the 1993 Annual Town Meeting for the "...Town to consider as it conducts its business." These goals are supported by individual Task Groups which have representatives on the Standing Committee. Three additional groups have formed under the Environment Task Group - the Spy Pond, Reservoir, and Sustainable Arlington Committees. The Standing Committee also includes Town leadership and may have a student representative from Arlington High School.

To this day the Standing Committee and its Task Groups continue efforts to bring the Town closer to the intent of these goals by partnering with Town groups and residents. These endeavors run the gamut from awareness/appreciation pieces on Town resources to planning for improvement of Town practices; from development of Town Meeting warrant articles to forums on emerging issues; from the creation of publications to actual physical improvements. The Standing Committee and its goal-supporting Task Groups are responsible for annual Town-wide surveys.

Notable Standing Committee/Task Group Activities

Employing the concept that while you are being counted, your opinions count too, the Vision 2020 Standing Committee, its Task Groups as well as Town Departments created, tallied, and analyzed 4,073 resident responses to the 2011 Vision 2020 Annual Survey, an insert to the Town's Annual Census Mailing.

Twenty-one (21%) of all Arlington households responded to this survey in just six weeks, 3,079 on paper and 994 online. This is the second year in a row with more than 4,000 household responses.

The demographics page shows that respondents were well distributed across Town.

Titled Truth and Consequences: You Can Influence the Difficult Decisions, the 2011 survey focused on the Town's anticipated large budget deficit for FY2012. While Arlington had experienced many successes in 2010, especially in energy improvements and its designation as a Green Community, slow revenue growth and the fact that costs were out pacing revenues presented a crisis.

Residents were thus asked to make single solution choices to questions on each Town Department's antici-

pated shortfall. Survey response options were: Make the Full Cuts; Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) and Smaller Cuts; 3yr Override and Smaller Cuts; or 5yr Override and Minimal Cuts. It is notable that no department gathered "Make the Full Cuts" as a majority solution. Additional questions asked whether respondents would raise revenues to offset the projected deficits by 3yr Override, 5yr override or PAYT solutions as well as implementing the Community Preservation Act (CPA) program or using Stabilization Funds to offset the deficit.

Residents were also queried on their experience with parking, as well as their knowledge and use of certain advantages that come from living in Arlington with its convenient bicycle routes, many senior transportation services, water bodies, and surrounding areas.

A summary and analysis of the household responses received by March 15, 2011 was reported to Town Meeting, Town officials and departments in May under the Annual Town Meeting's Article 2, and is printed here immediately following this report. It is also posted on the Town's website at arlingtonma.gov/vision2020. Data gleaned from this survey continues to be useful to Town officials and departments for planning and evaluation purposes.

Additional Activities

Was recognized along with the Town by the Pioneer Institute with an award of \$3,000 for its 2010 Annual Survey - Looking Ahead: Services & Revenues in the Balance - We Invite Your Input.

Again sponsored a Warrant Article for the 2010 Annual Town Meeting to appropriate monies from the general tax to the Water Bodies Fund for the purpose of maintaining, treating, and providing oversight of all the Town's water bodies. This account/fund may receive monies from the general tax, including the possibility of borrowing, gifts, or grants. These monies are expended under the direction of the Town Manager who will report to each Annual Town Meeting on the revenues and expenditures of the fund, as well as a projection for future needs.

With the help of Arlington High School's Workplace students and many residents, flyers were distributed to all residences in the entire 748 acre Spy Pond Watershed warning of the impact high-phosphorous fertilizers have on weed growth at Spy Pond or any water body, and announcing events affecting the area such as EcoFest and Spy Pond Trails Day.

Provided a night of Spy Pond Stories: Fish, Fables and Tall Tales featuring Eva Balazs, Eric Harrison, Bill Eykamp, Shayna and Herb Loeffler, and former resident and poet/musician Dudley Laufman.

Planned and implemented the Seventh Annual Spy Pond Trails Day at the Pond's southern path abutting the Route 2 exit ramp, focusing on tree pruning, invasive plant, and trash removal with help from com-

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

munity groups, neighbors, the Arlington & Belmont High School Crew Team, and the Boston- Area Appalachian Mountain Club.

For the third year, identified and treated the areas of Phragmites (common reed) invasion around Spy Pond; assessed the effectiveness of the previous fall's treatment; helped take down the dead treated plants; investigated the best method of diminishing the remaining presence of this invasive plant; raised funds to augment the Town's Water Bodies Fund to address this problem, and helped the Town develop a process for a late-summer/early-fall, 2011 phragmites treatment - all in consultation/cooperation with Arlington's Conservation Commission.

With the Arlington League of Women Voters, sponsored a program for new Town Meeting Members featuring Town Moderator John Leone outlining the nature and details of the Town Meeting form of government.

Also co-sponsored the annual Candidates' Night program with the League of Women Voters.

Helped select titles for the 2011 Community Book Read on the topic of immigration and/or Islam; the title chosen was *Zeitoun* by Dave Eggers.

With the Commission on Disability, hosted the third Annual Job Fair in the Town Hall Auditorium with 24 employers and more than 240 prospective employees attending.

Facilitated gatherings for speakers of Spanish.

Continued to provide leadership to the Superintendent's Advisory Committee on Diversity, advocating for recruiting and employing minority staff for both Arlington's public Schools and Town positions.

Formulated a Public Art Committee under the Culture and Recreation Task Group in conjunction with the Arlington Center for the Arts to promote the support and creation of more art for our public spaces.

With the Town and other environmentally-connected groups, helped plan and present EcoFest with an emphasis on water, its functions and resources. Began planning for EcoFest 2012 with a food theme and titled "Locavoracious...About Food!"

With DPW, the Arlington Garden Club and others, wrote and received a grant from the New England Grassroots Environment Fund to create and install an educational community rain garden at lower Pond Lane and Spy Pond Park to mitigate the effects of runoff and flooding to the area. An additional grant from the Arlington Cultural Council will be used for a collaborative garden signage project created by students from the Hardy School.

Through a Home Energy Check campaign, signed up over 400 Arlington residents for a free MassSave energy audit.

Continued to participate on the Town Manager's Energy Working Group implementing the 20% energy reduction plan, fulfilling a requirement of Arlington's

Green Community state designation.

Collaborated with numerous Town departments, committees, and nonprofits to facilitate Windows on Water, a year-long focus on water issues.

Hosted a Climate Summer student intern group and engaged them with broader community projects such as a Climate Cafe, pulling invasive pond-side plants, and identifying locations for additional public tree plantings.

Encouraged creating more bus shelters along Arlington's bus routes.

Created a Town Hall exhibit called Our Fragile Earth.

Worked with the DPW and the Recycle Committee on a possible Pay-As-You-Throw program and also on a plan for curbside food waste collection to further reduce the solid waste trash stream.

Met with knowledgeable horticulturists, residents, and the Department of Public Works to construct a plan for the installation of two Wildlife Habitat Gardens (one on either side of the newly constructed large spillway at the Arlington Reservoir). With the help of DPW, the Arlington Land Trust, and many residents prepared the garden sites, installed many varieties of native shrubs and wildflowers as well as a water line to the sites, and maintained the gardens through the summer and fall months.

After a two year study, prepared a Retrospective Analysis Report on Arlington's Recently Completed Five Year Financial Plan, documented the work done, and presented it to the Town Manager and the Long Range Planning Committee. This study contains lessons learned that might be applied to a future plan.

Updated the interactive annual program My Tax Dollars for FY 2011 for use on the Town's website.

Began to study the Land Value Tax as a possible way to encourage new growth, and met with the Board of Assessors to discuss this topic.

Again presented task group displays at Robbins Library as well as Vision 2020 and all its projects at Town Day hoping to engage new volunteers for its task groups and awareness of its overall mission.

Recognition

Vision 2020 appreciates all who contribute to this program, their skills and expertise, persistence, opinions, research, note-taking, grant writing, web posting, physical labor, planning, program creation and creative ideas – all offered generously - have truly enabled Arlington's Vision 2020 to assist the Town in addressing some of its current and future issues and challenges

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



To: Town Meeting Members and Town Officials

From: Vision 2020 Standing Committee and Task Group Chairs

Co-Chairs: Jo-Martha Glushko and Jane Howard
Paul Bayer, Kathleen Bodie, John Budzyna, Joe Connelly, Andrew Fischer,
Bruce Fitzsimmons, Jacob Friis, Mary Harrison, William Hayner, Gordon Jamieson,
Elizabeth Karpati, Annie LaCourt, John Leone, Joshua Lobel, Gail McCormick,
Charlotte Milan, Brucie Moulton, Cheryl Miller, Angela Olszewski, Stephen Ricci,
Cindy Starks, Brian Sullivan and David White

Date: May 16, 2011

Subject: The Vision 2020 Report to 2011 Annual Town Meeting

The Vision 2020 Standing Committee and its Task Groups are pleased to present the following report covering Vision 2020 projects and activities for Calendar Year 2010 as well as January-April, 2011. The report can be found in three areas:

- The first, on pages 100-113 of the Community Development section of the Town's *2010 Annual Report*, presents a short history of Vision 2020's 21-year existence and specific accomplishments for the year 2010 as well as the results and analysis of the 2010 Vision 2020 Annual Survey - *Looking Ahead: Services & Revenues in the Balance: We Invite Your Input*.
- The second is included here by reference to Warrant Article # 65 - Appropriation/Arlington's Water Bodies Fund. The recommended vote of the Finance Committee can be found in their 2011 Report to the Annual Town Meeting.
- The third, a summary and analysis of the 4073 Arlington household responses received by March 15, 2011 to the 2011 Vision 2020 Annual Survey - *Truth and Consequences; You Can Influence the Difficult Decisions* - can be found in this booklet. Twenty-one (21%) of Arlington's households responded to this survey in just six weeks, 3,079 on paper and 994 online. This is the second year in a row with more than a 4000 household responses, and the demographics page shows that respondents are well distributed across town.

Focusing on the Town's anticipated deficit, residents were asked to make a single solution choice to each Town Department shortfall question. The options were Make the Full Cuts, Pay-As-You-Throw and smaller cuts, 3yr Override and smaller cuts, or 5yr Override and minimal cuts. It is notable that no department gathered "Make the Full Cuts" as a majority solution. Additional questions asked whether respondents would raise revenues to offset the projected deficits by 3yr, 5yr or Pay-As-You-Throw solutions.

Residents were also queried on their knowledge and use of certain advantages that come from living in Arlington with its convenient bicycle routes, many senior transportation services, water bodies and surrounding areas.

Our report and these survey results, as well as further analysis by demographic categories, will be available on the Town website at www.arlingtonma.gov/vision2020.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Vision2020 Annual Survey -- 2011



Demographics Overview

Total Number of Responses
4,073

Paper or Survey Monkey Submission

Source1	#
online	994
paper	3,079
(Blank)	

Precinct

Precinct1	#	Pct of Total
prec. 1	122	3.0%
prec. 2	186	4.6%
prec. 3	159	3.9%
prec. 4	176	4.3%
prec. 5	156	3.8%
prec. 6	166	4.1%
prec. 7	162	4.0%
prec. 8	185	4.5%
prec. 9	188	4.6%
prec. 10	219	5.4%
prec. 11	186	4.6%
prec. 12	214	5.3%
prec. 13	147	3.6%
prec. 14	184	4.5%
prec. 15	188	4.6%
prec. 16	209	5.1%
prec. 17	115	2.8%
prec. 18	181	4.4%
prec. 19	192	4.7%
prec. 20	163	4.0%
prec. 21	177	4.3%
(Blank)	398	9.8%

Number of Students in Public School

# Students in Public School	#
none	2,375
one	462
two	336
three	53
four	4
(Blank)	842
>>4	1

Number of Students not in Public School

# Students not in Public School	#
none	2,794
one	197
two	64
three	12
four	7
>>4	3
(Blank)	996

Residence Type

Residence Type	#
Single-Fam.	2,307
2-3 family home	867
4-8 unit bldg.	98
9+ unit bldg.	359
(Blank)	442

Years lived in Arlington

Years Lived in Arlington	#
<<5 yrs.	871
5-15 yrs.	1,236
>>15 yrs.	1,694
(Blank)	272

Own or Rent1	#
own	3,096
rent	874
(Blank)	103

Number of People < 5 Years Old

# People < 5	#
none	2,535
one	426
two	192
three	13
(Blank)	907

Number of People 18-64 Years Old

# People 18-64	#
none	481
one	829
two	1,996
three	243
four	103
>>4	32
(Blank)	389

Number of People 75-84 Years Old

# People 75-84	#
none	2,775
one	270
two	115
three	2
four	1
>>4	1
(Blank)	909

Seniors Only in Household

65+ Only	#
Under 65	3,076
Over 65 Only	994
(Blank)	3

Preferred method of Emergency Contact1	#
E-Mail	1,357
TextMessaging	383
Cell Phone	398
Telephone	1,770
(Blank)	165

Number of People < 18 Years Old

# People < 18	#
none	1,988
one	531
two	629
three	140
four	12
>>4	4
(Blank)	769

Number of People 65-74 Years Old

# People 65-74	#
none	2,534
one	434
two	173
three	5
>>4	2
(Blank)	925

Number of People 85+ Years Old

# People 85+1	#
none	2,983
one	138
two	31
three	3
four	1
>>4	1
(Blank)	916

Children in Public Schools

Have Children in Public School1	#
No/Blank	3,217
Yes	856
(Blank)	

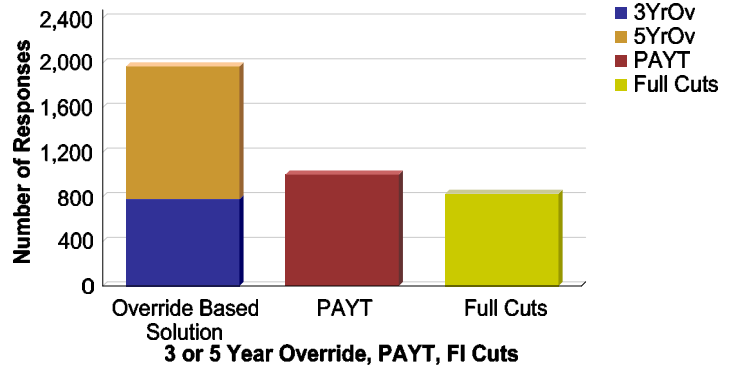
Spend Elder Years in Arlington1	#
Yes	1,601
No	439
Don't Know	1,909
(Blank)	123
5	1



Summary of All Questions

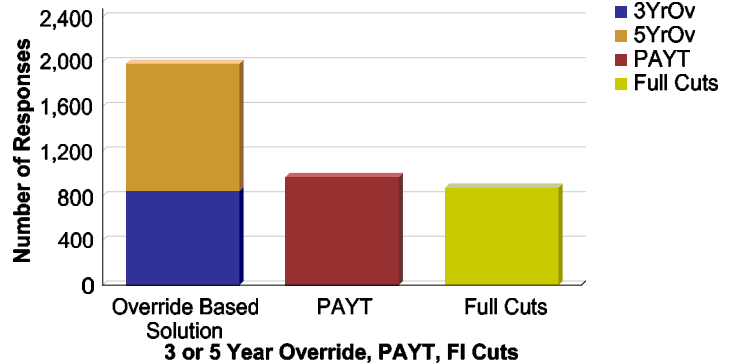
How to Deal with Fire Department Challenge

Override Based Solution		Override Based Solution	PAYT	Full Cuts	Total Valid Responses
3YrOv	5YrOv				
779	1,188	1,967	998	826	3,791
20.5%	31.3%	51.9%	26.3%	21.8%	100.0%



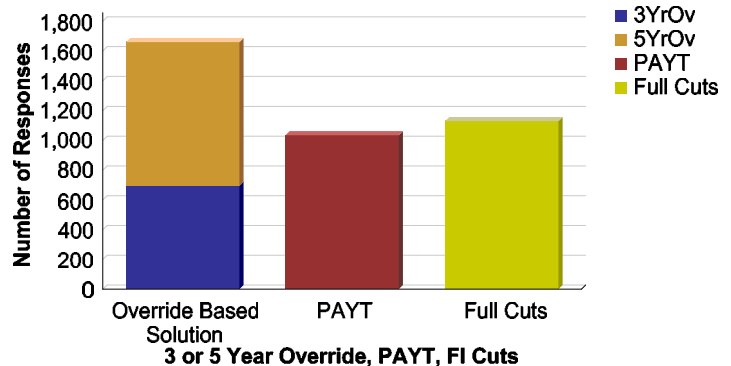
How to Deal with Police Department Challenge

Override Based Solution		Override Based Solution	PAYT	Full Cuts	Total Valid Responses
3YrOv	5YrOv				
841	1,143	1,984	967	872	3,823
22.0%	29.9%	51.9%	25.3%	22.8%	100.0%



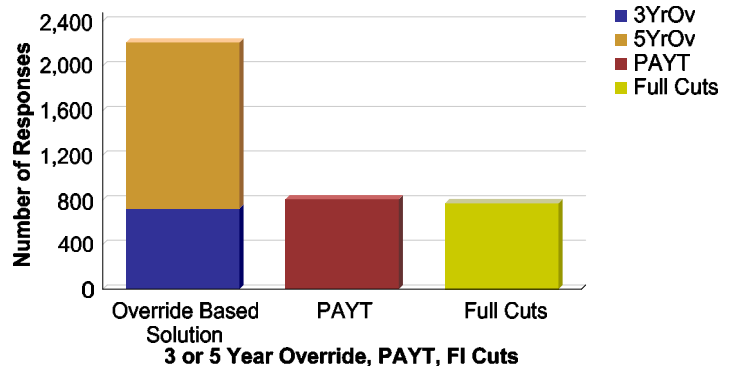
How to Deal with Library Challenge

Override Based Solution		Override Based Solution	PAYT	Full Cuts	Total Valid Responses
3YrOv	5YrOv				
694	966	1,660	1,033	1,129	3,822
18.2%	25.3%	43.4%	27.0%	29.5%	100.0%



How to Deal with Schools Challenge

Override Based Solution		Override Based Solution	PAYT	Full Cuts	Total Valid Responses
3YrOv	5YrOv				
721	1,489	2,210	804	769	3,783
19.1%	39.4%	58.4%	21.3%	20.3%	100.0%



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

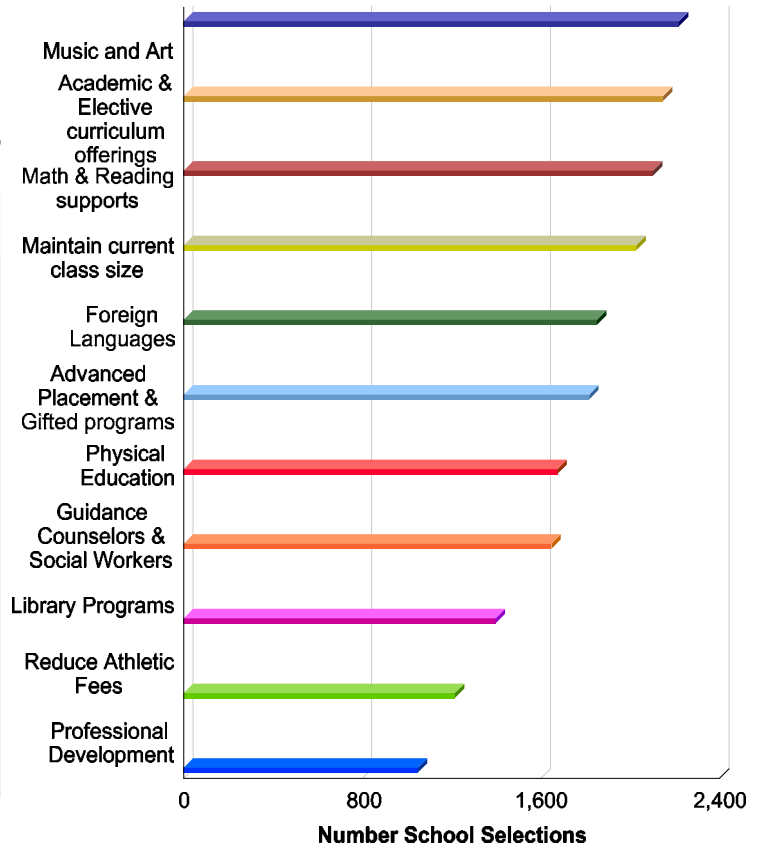


Vision2020 Annual Survey -- 2011

School Priorities

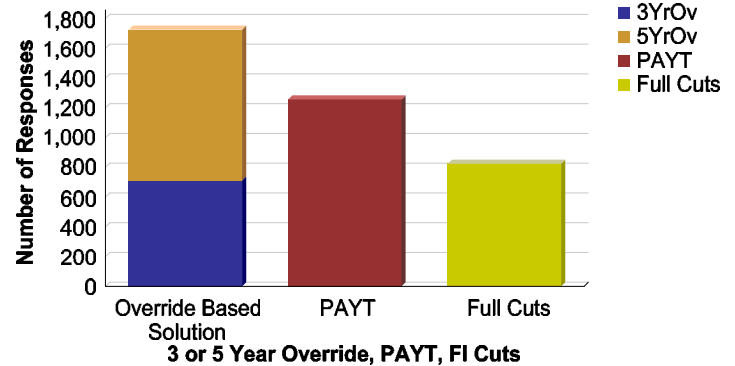
(Note: There were 899 responses who designated "All of the Above". In these cases, one count was added to each of the categories.)

	Number School Selections
Music and Art	2,218
Academic & Elective curriculum offerings	2,147
Math & Reading supports	2,102
Maintain current class size	2,027
Foreign Languages	1,851
Advanced Placement & Gifted programs	1,816
Physical Education	1,674
Guidance Counselors & Social Workers	1,647
Library Programs	1,397
Reduce Athletic Fees	1,215
Professional Development	1,049



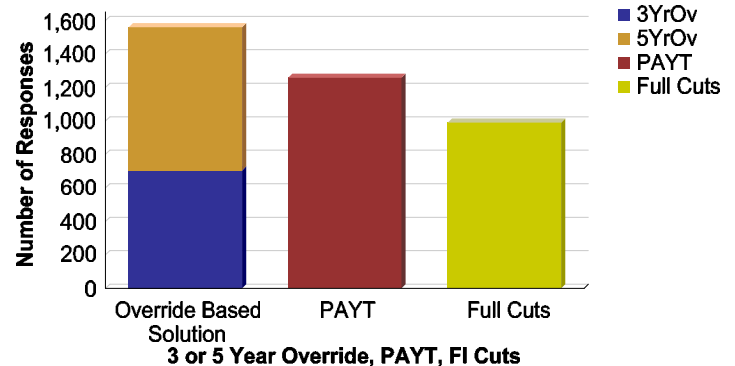
How to Deal with Snow Removal Challenge

Override Based Solution		Override Based Solution	PAYT	Full Cuts	Total Valid Responses
3YrOv	5YrOv				
712	1,012	1,724	1,256	824	3,804
18.7%	26.6%	45.3%	33.0%	21.7%	100.0%



How to Deal with Street Repair Challenge

Override Based Solution		Override Based Solution	PAYT	Full Cuts	Total Valid Responses
3YrOv	5YrOv				
704	855	1,559	1,258	989	3,806
18.5%	22.5%	41.0%	33.1%	26.0%	100.0%

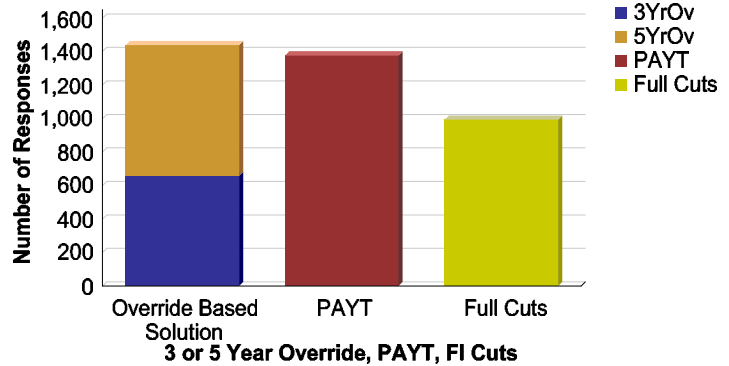


Vision2020 Annual Survey -- 2011



How to Deal with Parks and Field Maintenance Challenge

Override Based Solution		Override Based Solution	PAYT	Full Cuts	Total Valid Responses
3YrOv	5YrOv				
658	781	1,439	1,377	993	3,809
17.3%	20.5%	37.8%	36.2%	26.1%	100.0%

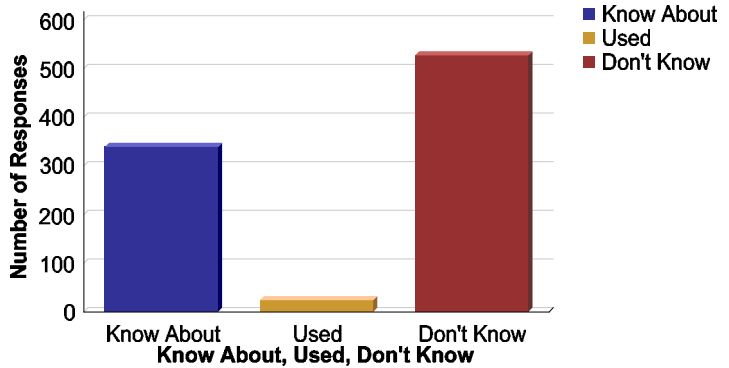


Quality of Life Factors

Senior Transportation

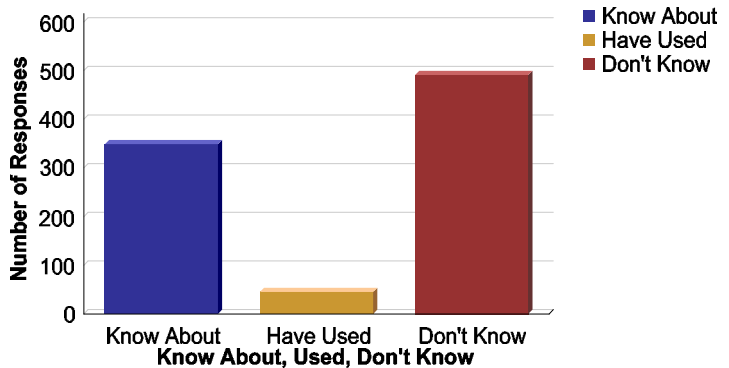
COA Dial-A-Ride

Know About	Used	Don't Know	Total Valid Responses
339	24	527	890
38.1%	2.7%	59.2%	100.0%



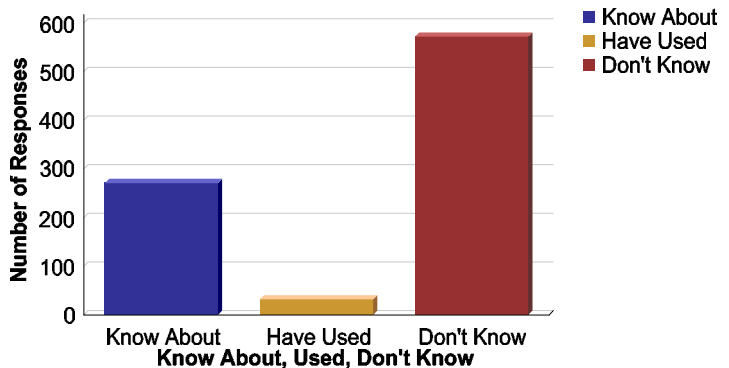
COA Senior Center Van

Know About	Have Used	Don't Know	Total Valid Responses
349	45	491	885
39.4%	5.1%	55.5%	100.0%



COA Medical Appointment Van

Know About	Have Used	Don't Know	Total Valid Responses
271	32	572	875
31.0%	3.7%	65.4%	100.0%



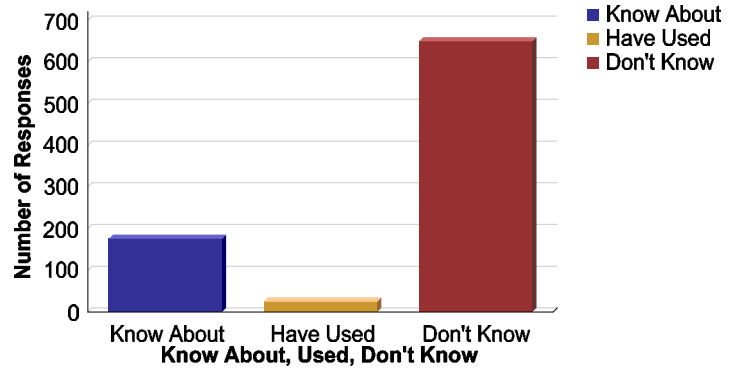
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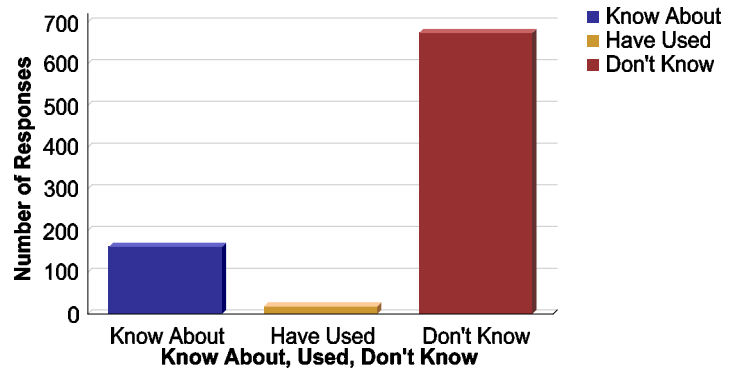
COA Medical Escort Services

Know About	Have Used	Don't Know	Total Valid Responses
176	25	649	850
20.7%	2.9%	76.4%	100.0%



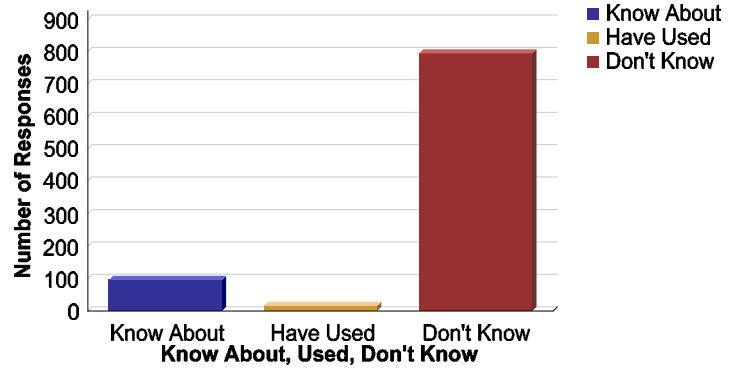
COA Sanborn Transport

Know About	Have Used	Don't Know	Total Valid Responses
161	18	674	853
18.9%	2.1%	79.0%	100.0%



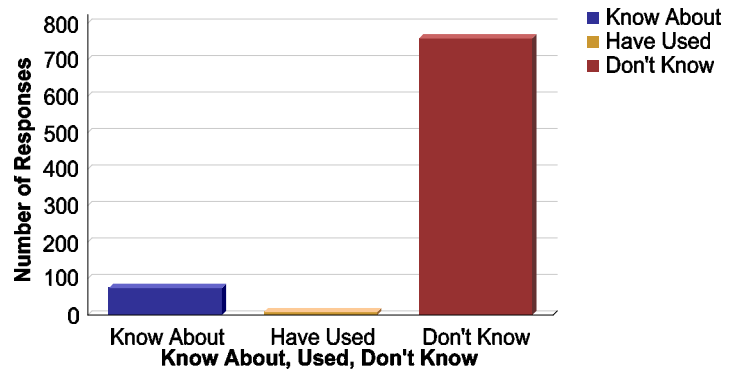
SCM Paul's Ride

Know About	Have Used	Don't Know	Total Valid Responses
96	16	794	906
10.6%	1.8%	87.6%	100.0%



SCM Door to Door Arts

Know About	Have Used	Don't Know	Total Valid Responses
74	8	758	840
8.8%	1.0%	90.2%	100.0%



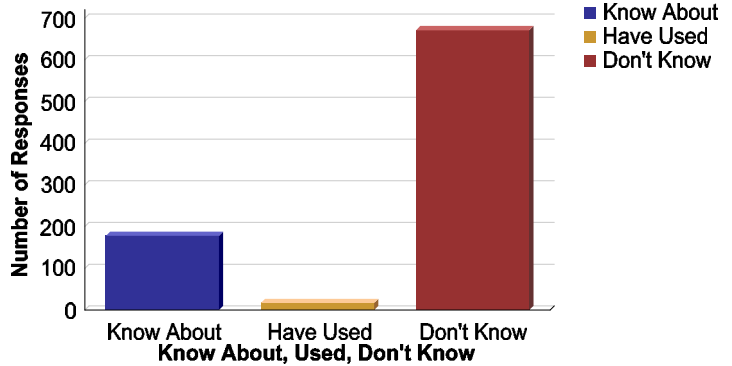
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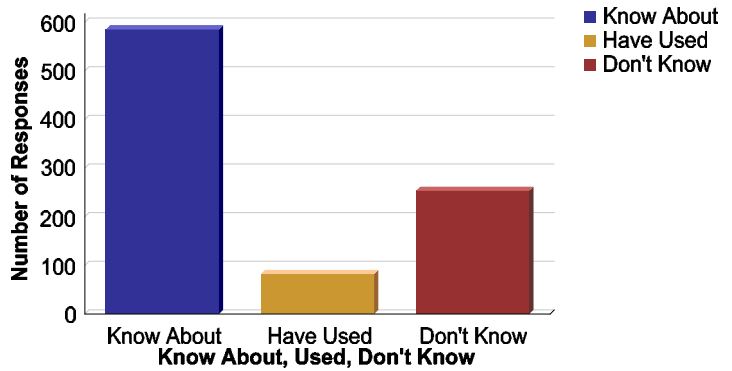
Stop and Shop Van

Know About	Have Used	Don't Know	Total Valid Responses
178	17	671	866
20.6%	2.0%	77.5%	100.0%



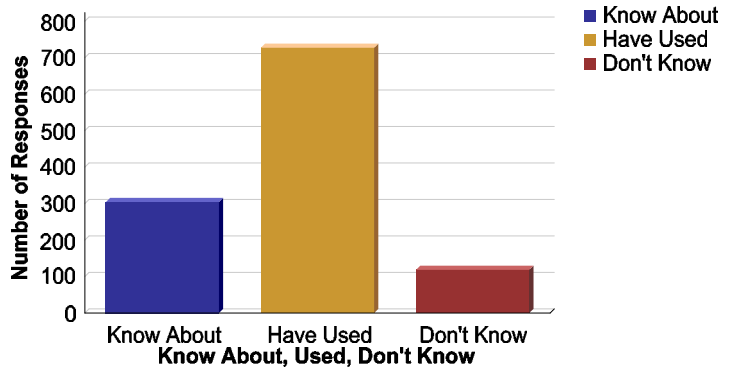
MBTA The Ride

Know About	Have Used	Don't Know	Total Valid Responses
585	82	253	920
63.6%	8.9%	27.5%	100.0%



MBTA Bus

Know About	Have Used	Don't Know	Total Valid Responses
304	727	118	1,149
26.5%	63.3%	10.3%	100.0%



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Senior Transportation Services

		Have Used	Know About	Don't Know	Total Valid Choices
COA Dial a Ride	#	49	339	527	915
	%	5.4%	37.0%	57.6%	100.0%
COA Senior Center Van	#	45	349	491	885
	%	5.1%	39.4%	55.5%	100.0%
COA Medical Appointment Van	#	32	271	572	875
	%	3.7%	31.0%	65.4%	100.0%
COA Medical Escort Services	#	25	176	649	850
	%	2.9%	20.7%	76.4%	100.0%
COA Sanborn Transport	#	18	161	674	853
	%	2.1%	18.9%	79.0%	100.0%
SCM Paul's Ride	#	16	96	794	906
	%	1.8%	10.6%	87.6%	100.0%
SCM Medical Appointment Rides	#	20	142	697	859
	%	2.3%	16.5%	81.1%	100.0%
SCM Door to Door Arts	#	8	74	758	840
	%	1.0%	8.8%	90.2%	100.0%
Stop and Shop Van	#	17	178	671	866
	%	2.0%	20.6%	77.5%	100.0%
MBTA The Ride	#	82	585	253	920
	%	8.9%	63.6%	27.5%	100.0%
MBTA Bus	#	727	304	118	1,149
	%	63.3%	26.5%	10.3%	100.0%

Older Drivers

Driver Ages	Number Older Drivers
60-64 years	634
65-74 years	579
75-84 years	269
85 or older	78

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Arlington's Seven Waterbodies

		Use	Know/Don't Use	Don't Know	Total Valid Choices
Alewife Brook	#	356	2,413	405	3,174
	%	11.2%	76.0%	12.8%	100.0%
Arlington Reservoir	#	1,269	1,727	279	3,275
	%	38.7%	52.7%	8.5%	100.0%
Hills Pond/Menotomy Park	#	1,006	1,353	789	3,148
	%	32.0%	43.0%	25.1%	100.0%
Mill Brook	#	275	2,046	792	3,113
	%	8.8%	65.7%	25.4%	100.0%
Mystic Lakes	#	828	2,059	313	3,200
	%	25.9%	64.3%	9.8%	100.0%
Mystic River	#	584	2,342	231	3,157
	%	18.5%	74.2%	7.3%	100.0%
Spy Pond	#	1,671	1,539	101	3,311
	%	50.5%	46.5%	3.1%	100.0%

Bicycle Commuting

Commuting Route	Number Bike Commuting Choices
Mass. Ave->Camb/Boston	285
BikePath->Camb/Boston	542
Mass. Ave->Lex	74
BikePath->Lex	183
Rt. 60 -> Belmont/Waltham	58
Rt. 60 -> Medford	31
Other Commuting Routes	162

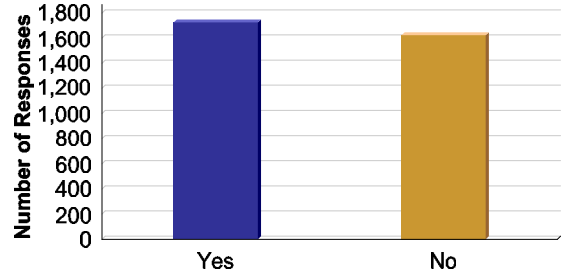


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Revenue Options

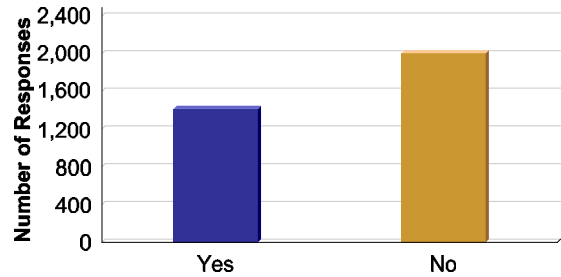
Support for 3-Year Override

Number of Responses	Yes	No	Total	% Yes	% No
online	435	384	819	53.1%	46.9%
paper	1,289	1,238	2,527	51.0%	49.0%
(Blank)					
Total	1,724	1,622	3,346	51.5%	48.5%



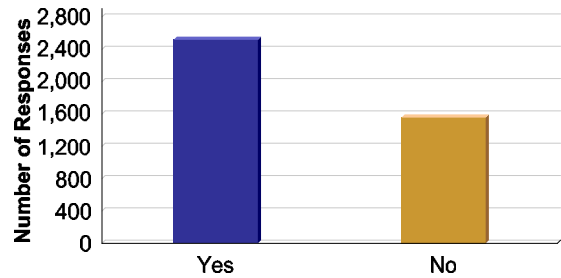
Support for 5-Year Override

Number of Responses	Yes	No	Total	% Yes	% No
online	407	444	851	47.8%	52.2%
paper	1,007	1,562	2,569	39.2%	60.8%
(Blank)					
Total	1,414	2,006	3,420	41.3%	58.7%



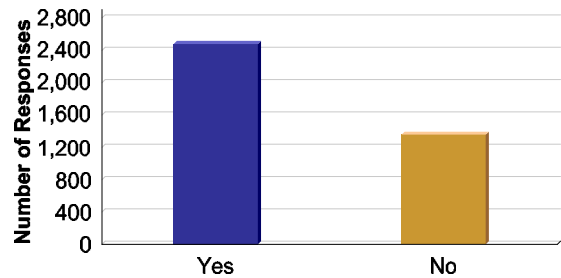
Support for 3-Year OR 5-Year Override

Number of Responses	Yes	No	Total	% Yes	% No
online	649	345	994	65.3%	34.7%
paper	1,868	1,211	3,079	60.7%	39.3%
(Blank)					
Total	2,517	1,556	4,073	61.8%	38.2%



Support for Pay As You Throw (PAYT)

Number of Responses	Yes	No	Total	% Yes	% No
online	639	292	931	68.6%	31.4%
paper	1,839	1,063	2,902	63.4%	36.6%
(Blank)					
Total	2,478	1,355	3,833	64.6%	35.4%



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Detailed Analysis for Override Solution

Support for Override Solution

Number of Responses	Yes	No	Total	% Yes	% No
Total	2,517	1,556	4,073	61.8%	38.2%
online	649	345	994	65.3%	34.7%
paper	1,868	1,211	3,079	60.7%	39.3%
(Blank)					
Have Students in Public School					
No/Blank	1,863	1,354	3,217	57.9%	42.1%
Yes	654	202	856	76.4%	23.6%
(Blank)					
Years lived in Arlington					
<<5 yrs.	621	250	871	71.3%	28.7%
5-15 yrs.	881	355	1,236	71.3%	28.7%
>>15 yrs.	887	807	1,694	52.4%	47.6%
(Blank)	128	144	272	47.1%	52.9%
Only Seniors (65+) In Household					
Under 65	2,031	1,045	3,076	66.0%	34.0%
Over 65 Only	483	511	994	48.6%	51.4%
(Blank)	3				
Own or Rent					
own	1,840	1,256	3,096	59.4%	40.6%
rent	625	249	874	71.5%	28.5%
(Blank)	52	51	103	50.5%	49.5%
Support Pay as You Throw (PAYT)					
Yes	1,757	721	2,478	70.9%	29.1%
No	707	648	1,355	52.2%	47.8%
(Blank)	53	186	239	22.2%	77.8%

Number of Responses	Yes	No	Total	% Yes	% No
Precinct					
prec. 1	82	40	122	67.2%	32.8%
prec. 2	115	71	186	61.8%	38.2%
prec. 3	122	37	159	76.7%	23.3%
prec. 4	111	65	176	63.1%	36.9%
prec. 5	103	53	156	66.0%	34.0%
prec. 6	94	72	166	56.6%	43.4%
prec. 7	117	45	162	72.2%	27.8%
prec. 8	122	63	185	65.9%	34.1%
prec. 9	117	71	188	62.2%	37.8%
prec. 10	144	75	219	65.8%	34.2%
prec. 11	109	77	186	58.6%	41.4%
prec. 12	138	76	214	64.5%	35.5%
prec. 13	78	69	147	53.1%	46.9%
prec. 14	123	61	184	66.8%	33.2%
prec. 15	105	83	188	55.9%	44.1%
prec. 16	134	75	209	64.1%	35.9%
prec. 17	65	50	115	56.5%	43.5%
prec. 18	98	83	181	54.1%	45.9%
prec. 19	111	81	192	57.8%	42.2%
prec. 20	105	58	163	64.4%	35.6%
prec. 21	118	59	177	66.7%	33.3%
(Blank)	206	192	398	51.8%	48.2%
Residence Type					
Single-Fam.	1,381	926	2,307	59.9%	40.1%
2-3 family home	560	307	867	64.6%	35.4%
4-8 unit bldg.	71	27	98	72.4%	27.6%
9+ unit bldg.	228	131	359	63.5%	36.5%
(Blank)	277	165	442	62.7%	37.3%

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Detailed Analysis for Pay As You Throw Solution

Support for Pay As You Throw (PAYT)

Number of Responses	Yes	No	Total	% Yes	% No
Total	2,478	1,355	3,833	64.6%	35.4%
online	639	292	931	68.6%	31.4%
paper	1,839	1,063	2,902	63.4%	36.6%
(Blank)					
Have Students in Public School					
No/Blank	1,869	1,146	3,015	62.0%	38.0%
Yes	609	209	818	74.4%	25.6%
(Blank)					
Years lived in Arlington					
<<5 yrs.	591	225	816	72.4%	27.6%
5-15 yrs.	863	318	1,181	73.1%	26.9%
>>15 yrs.	891	713	1,604	55.5%	44.5%
(Blank)	133	99	232	57.3%	42.7%
Only Seniors (65+) In Household					
Under 65	2,004	923	2,927	68.5%	31.5%
Over 65 Only	471	432	903	52.2%	47.8%
(Blank)	3				
Own or Rent					
own	1,903	1,044	2,947	64.6%	35.4%
rent	527	271	798	66.0%	34.0%
(Blank)	48	40	88	54.5%	45.5%
Support an Override Based Solution					
Yes	1,757	707	2,464	71.3%	28.7%
No	721	648	1,369	52.7%	47.3%
(Blank)					

Number of Responses	Yes	No	Total	% Yes	% No
Precinct					
prec. 1	67	42	109	61.5%	38.5%
prec. 2	107	71	178	60.1%	39.9%
prec. 3	110	39	149	73.8%	26.2%
prec. 4	109	57	166	65.7%	34.3%
prec. 5	91	52	143	63.6%	36.4%
prec. 6	106	45	151	70.2%	29.8%
prec. 7	101	58	159	63.5%	36.5%
prec. 8	132	45	177	74.6%	25.4%
prec. 9	126	49	175	72.0%	28.0%
prec. 10	148	61	209	70.8%	29.2%
prec. 11	102	75	177	57.6%	42.4%
prec. 12	152	59	211	72.0%	28.0%
prec. 13	72	67	139	51.8%	48.2%
prec. 14	127	48	175	72.6%	27.4%
prec. 15	106	73	179	59.2%	40.8%
prec. 16	126	77	203	62.1%	37.9%
prec. 17	63	45	108	58.3%	41.7%
prec. 18	110	66	176	62.5%	37.5%
prec. 19	100	82	182	54.9%	45.1%
prec. 20	108	45	153	70.6%	29.4%
prec. 21	108	67	175	61.7%	38.3%
(Blank)	207	132	339	61.1%	38.9%
Residence Type					
Single-Fam.	1,391	800	2,191	63.5%	36.5%
2-3 family home	535	298	833	64.2%	35.8%
4-8 unit bldg.	55	32	87	63.2%	36.8%
9+ unit bldg.	227	102	329	69.0%	31.0%
(Blank)	270	123	393	68.7%	31.3%