

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

REDEVELOPMENT BOARD

The Arlington Redevelopment Board (ARB) is the Town's Planning Board, under G.L. c. 41, § 81. There are five members of the board: four are appointed by the Town Manager and the fifth is a gubernatorial designee appointed by the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development.

The board serves as the Town's special permit granting authority for projects which require an Environmental Design Review (EDR); nine applications were reviewed and approved by the board in 2018. In 2018, the majority of the ARB's reviews were for new signage; however, the ARB did review and approve the renovation of a mixed-use building on Massachusetts Avenue. A new mixed-use and mixed-income building on Sunnyside Avenue is in the permitting process which began in 2018.

The ARB is also the Town's Urban Renewal Authority under G.L. c. 121; with Town Meeting approval, the Board may hold land or buildings to improve and rehabilitate them to meet community development goals. The ARB currently manages three properties: the Central School at 20 Academy Street, 23 Maple Street, and the Jefferson Cutter House at 611 Massachusetts Avenue, which includes Whittemore Park. Building tenants include the Senior Center, Mystic River Watershed Association, Arlington Chamber of Commerce, Arlington Center for the Arts, Dallin Museum, and Town departments.

Lastly, the ARB serves as the Board of Survey with authority to approve the design of roads for the purposes of ensuring that new building lots can meet zoning frontage and access requirements. There were no Board of Survey applications for consideration in 2018.

The Arlington Center for the Arts (ACA) transformed former office suites on the third and fourth floors of the Central School building. The renovation was supported by the Town of Arlington and an \$187,000 grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund. The ARB commends ACA on the completion of the renovation and the use of the space as a multigenerational hub of arts and culture in its collaboration with the Senior Center, also located in the Central School.

Progress continued on the design of the new Senior Center. The Historic Districts Commission and state Architectural Access Board reviewed and approved exterior and accessibility improvements. Construction is expected to start on major renovations in FY2020.

A revitalization plan was prepared for Whittemore Park, located within Arlington Center at the crossroads of the town's central business district, its seat of government, and in the heart of the Arlington Cultural District. Traditional public forums, nontraditional engagement events, and a community-wide survey were used to gather information about the site and to solicit feedback

on design options. Supported by FY2018 CPA funds, the design includes improving ADA accessibility in the park, installing new seating and lighting, upgrading the landscape, and improving historical and cultural signage. Revitalization of the park will be completed in phases utilizing CPA, Community Development Block Grant, and Town capital funds.

PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD) is committed to improving the quality of life for Arlington's residents by improving housing opportunities, transportation access, economic development to enhance the vitality of our business districts and generate commercial tax revenue, providing opportunities for households that make low to moderate income, improving energy efficiency, and preserving and promoting the Town's natural, historic, and cultural resources. DPCD administers programs that serve households that make a low to moderate income, utilizing Community Development Block Grant funds. The Menotomy Weatherization Program serves Arlington, Belmont, Cambridge, Lexington, Somerville, Waltham, and Watertown residents by helping eligible homeowners and renters make their homes more energy efficient. The Department administers the Town's participation in the Commonwealth's Green Communities Act Program, which includes grants for energy efficiency totaling more than \$1.5 million since 2010.

DPCD has 14 full-time and two per-diem staff. Staff support and participate in a range of Town committees, commissions and boards, and work with other departments in support of Town initiatives. The groups and projects with DPCD involvement include: Arlington Redevelopment Board; Conservation Commission, Master Plan Implementation Committee and five sub-groups (Zoning Recodification Working Group, Residential Study Group, Mill Brook Study Group, Historic and Cultural Resources Working Group, Zoning Bylaw Working Group); Envision Arlington (formerly Vision 2020) and its Task Groups; Open Space Committee; Bicycle Advisory Committee; Transportation Advisory Committee; Housing Plan Implementation Committee; Arlington Tourism and Economic Development; Arlington Commission on Arts and Culture; Parking Implementation and Governance Committee; Disability Commission; Arlington Center Merchants Association; Arlington Heights Merchants Association; Arlington Commission on Arts and Culture; Arlington Cultural District Core Committee; and the Arlington Chamber of Commerce.

The Department also represents the Town regionally at the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), the Metropolitan Area Planning Council Executive Committee and Inner Core Committee, the Battle Road Scenic Byway Committee, the North Sub-

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urban HOME Consortium and the Somerville/Arlington Continuum of Care.

The Department reviewed and approved 20 sign permits; reviewed and provided memos to the Zoning Board of Appeals on 25 dockets; and reviewed and provided comments to the Select Board on 21 license applications. The Economic Development Coordinator assisted 108 businesses through office visits, site visits, merchants' meetings, and the Chamber of Commerce.

The Department would like to thank Lela Shepherd, Environmental Planner and Conservation Agent, Nathaniel Strosberg, Senior Planner, and Amy Quinn, Administrative Assistant for their service to the Department and Town. We also thank Fred Lamburn, Building Craftsman, for his years of service to the Town and congratulate him on his retirement. We also thank interns Elizabeth Chaput and Jamila Zanobetti-Foreman for their assistance on a range of Department initiatives.

We welcome Emily Sullivan and Kelly Lynema as Environmental Planner and Senior Planner respectively, Erin Zwirko, AICP, LEED AP, Assistant Director, Daniel Amstutz, AICP, Senior Transportation Planner, and Mary Muszynski, Administrative Assistant. We also welcomed Ken Pruitt, Energy and Project Manager, to the Department from the Facilities Department.

2018 Highlights

Economic Development

DPCD worked with individual entrepreneurs and merchant groups in the neighborhood business districts to address the issue of business district improvements. Top economic development priorities for the Town are supporting and retaining existing and attracting new businesses, and planning initiatives that stimulate redevelopment. Work continued to engage with property owners and potential developers to encourage mixed-use, residential, and commercial development along major corridors and in support of business districts.

Key achievements included public outreach for the Bus Rapid Transit pilot and associated art installations coterminous with the Arlington Cultural District, organizing a pop-up beer garden hosted by Aeronaut Brewing Company in Whittemore Park, completion of the Battle Road Byway website, and orchestrating a call for ideas that elicited 81 concepts to enliven the Arlington Cultural District in the area along Mass Ave and the Minuteman Bikeway between Arlington Center and East Arlington.

DPCD received \$40,000 in technical assistance from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) to develop an action plan for Arlington Heights and complete several Master Plan implementation actions relevant to the Heights, such as exploring options for spurring revitalization and economic development efforts along Massachusetts Avenue. The project examined

potential barriers to development and recommend future zoning or regulatory amendments by working with a stakeholder group and holding two public forums. Using the recommendations of the action plan, policy and zoning amendments will be implemented in the coming year.



Transportation Initiatives

DPCD worked on several key transportation initiatives in 2018, including helping implement a new dockless bikesharing program, a bus rapid transit (BRT) pilot along Mass Ave, and furthering efforts on Complete Streets, Safe Routes to School, and participation in the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).



Bus Rapid Transit Pilot

Arlington was one of four municipalities in Greater Boston to receive \$100,000 in grant funding from the Barr Foundation to pilot elements of BRT along local bus transit routes. The pilot goals were to reduce travel time and increase reliability for MBTA buses, as well as improve traffic flow in the corridor. Working in cooperation with the City of Cambridge, the MBTA, Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), and other part-

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ners, bus priority features were installed along Mass Ave from Lake Street to Alewife Brook Parkway, affecting the #77, #79, and #350 MBTA buses. The pilot took place from October 9 to November 9, 2018. The pilot included the following elements: relocation of the bus stop to the far side of the Mass Ave and Lake Street intersection; transit signal priority and a queue jump at the same intersection; the repurposing of parking spaces from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. for a dedicated bus and bike lane from the intersection of Mass Ave and Varnum Street to the Alewife Brook Parkway; and traffic signal and lane changes at the intersection of Mass Ave and Alewife Brook Parkway. Data and rider experience surveys showed the pilot was a major success, improving travel times by 6-10 minutes and increasing reliability considerably.

Although many of the elements of the pilot remained at the end of the month-long pilot period, the dedicated bus lane was removed. Given the resounding success of the dedicated bus lane and the overwhelming support from residents to keep the lane, the Town will develop a way to bring back the lane permanently in 2019.



Bike Share

After reviewing potential bike share options, Arlington began collaborating with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) and fourteen other municipalities to develop a regional dockless bike share program. Dockless bike sharing launched in Arlington on June 28th with 150 bikes from bike share vendor Lime. Riders can utilize bikes in the program within the regional service area, which includes Belmont, Medford, Watertown, and Malden. The program has been very successful. From the beginning of the program through the end of December 2018, more than 19,500 trips have been made on LimeBikes in Arlington, with approximately 15,400 on manual bicycles and 4,100 on Lime-E electric assist bicycles. The highest density of

start and end trips on LimeBikes are in East Arlington, Arlington Center, at Alewife Station, and along Mass Ave, Broadway, and the Minuteman Bikeway. Based on the routing information that is provided by Lime, high LimeBike usage has occurred on the Minuteman Bikeway, Broadway, Summer Street, Warren Street, Mystic Street, Lake Street, and Pleasant Street. LimeBikes will continue to be available during the winter months for use, although in reduced numbers.

Safe Routes to School

The Town supports safe walking and bicycling for children to reach their schools to increase their daily physical activity; reduce traffic congestion around schools during drop-off and pick-up times; reduce environmental pollution from vehicle emissions; and promote traffic safety for all street users. DPCD staff attended Walk to School Day at Stratton Elementary School in October 2018 and has continued to work with the school administration and parents of Stratton students to advance infrastructure improvements around the school, including working together to apply for a Massachusetts Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Grant in January 2019. DPCD works with the Transportation Advisory Committee and other Town departments to ensure that all schools have safe and accessible routes for children to walk and bicycle to school year-round.

Complete Streets

As part of Arlington's Complete Streets Action Plan, improvements are being designed for the intersection of Lake Street and the Minuteman Bikeway that will include the installation of a traffic/pedestrian/bicycle signal at the intersection that would be coordinated with the signal at Brooks Avenue and Lake Street. There will also be signage and pavement marking changes, handicap access improvements, and vegetation maintenance as part of the project. 100% design plans for the project were received in the fall from the project consultant, Green International. However, due to funding constraints, the Town was not eligible to compete for state Complete Streets Program funding in 2018. The Town is seeking other funding sources to construct this project as expeditiously as possible, including through the new MassTrails grant program. Future Complete Streets projects include traffic calming and pedestrian accessibility improvements on Lowell Street near Reservoir Beach; improvements to the Medford Street Rotary; and pedestrian improvements on Park Avenue.

Boston Region MPO

Arlington is an active participant in the Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and was re-elected to another three-year term as a voting member on the MPO at the Municipal Election in October. DPCD staff attends MPO meetings representing the Chair of

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the Select Board, Daniel Dunn. The Boston MPO is responsible for conducting the federally required metropolitan transportation planning process for the Boston metropolitan area. The planning process is necessary to develop a vision for transportation in the region and to decide how to allocate federal and state transportation funds to transportation programs and projects that improve roadway, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian infrastructure. Arlington continues to be involved with the development of the Long-Range Transportation Plan, the Transportation Improvement Program, and the Unified Planning Work Program.

Environmental Planning

Spy Pond Shoreline Protection Project

A Community Preservation Act grant of \$552,900 was awarded for FY2018 for shoreline stabilization along Spy Pond. The Land and Water Conservation program of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs awarded the Town \$40,040 for trail work in Spy Pond Park. CDBG granted \$94,000 to the project for trail work and ADA compliance. The Friends of Spy Pond Park donated \$5,000 to project work. A survey by the National Heritage and Endangered Species Program confirmed that Spy Pond's shoreline is home to a rare plant, the Engelmann's Umbrella Sedge, which has implications for both the design and implementation of the project. As the project moves towards construction, the goals remain to preserve, stabilize and strengthen the pond's banks to control erosion; protect and enhance wildlife habitat; prevent unauthorized paths; broaden and strengthen constituency groups; increase water quality and recreational opportunities; and improve stormwater infiltration. Project construction will begin in early Spring 2019 and be completed in Fall 2019.



The Spy Pond Project includes pathway resurfacing and erosion control.

Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Preparedness

The Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Core Group was formed in the spring of 2017 to coordinate a community resilience planning process to address the local impacts of climate change. This initiative is the result of a \$23,000 Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Planning Grant, which was awarded to Arlington by the State's Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. At the core of the planning process is a Community Resilience Building Workshop, which initiated the development of a climate change vulnerability assessment and action plan through community engagement and stakeholder discussion.

Through the MVP planning process, Arlington identified chronic flooding along Mill Brook and extreme heat in tree-deficit areas (like East Arlington and along Mass Ave) as the community's most pressing vulnerabilities and prioritized actions to reduce vulnerability. In the summer Arlington received an MVP action grant of almost \$400,000 to increase flood storage capacity in Wellington Park, along Mill Brook, to address flooding along the Mill Brook Corridor. This increased flood storage capacity will be approximately 300 cubic yards.



Mill Brook suffers from chronic flooding.

In addition to the MVP resiliency preparedness work, Arlington's Conservation Commission also added language to its 2018 local wetlands bylaws and regulations revision, requiring projects to improve climate change resilience. Section 31 of the Arlington Regulations for Wetlands Protection states that conservation permit applicants must integrate adaptation planning into their project to promote climate change resilience so as to protect and promote resource area values into the future.

Regional Resilience Collaborations

Arlington is currently a member of three regional resilience collaborations: the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) Metro Mayors Coalition; Resilient Mystic Collaborative facilitated by the Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA); and the Mystic Storm-

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water Collaborative facilitated by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). As a member of these three collaborations, Arlington has committed to climate adaptation and resilience building actions and goals. These actions and goals focus on building capacity for stormwater management, renewable energy, urban heat island mitigation, floodwater retention, public engagement around resilience building, and inter-municipal project and policy alignment. Many of the climate change vulnerabilities that Arlington suffers from are impacting our neighboring communities as well. These regional collaborations strengthen Arlington's resilience through knowledge-sharing and regional projects that more efficiently leverage funding and technical opportunities.

These regional collaborations are particularly effective forums for Arlington to share its stormwater management successes and learn new stormwater best practices. Massachusetts recently revised its stormwater permitting, creating more stringent regulations for point-source pollution transported through municipal stormwater systems. Throughout 2019, DPCD will work with the Engineering Division to educate residents and businesses on the importance of proactive stormwater management as a strategy for pollution reduction, environmental resource protection, and floodwater mitigation.

Hazard Mitigation Plan Revision

Arlington's Hazard Mitigation Plan was adopted in 2012. Per Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requirements, hazard mitigation plans need to be updated every five years in order to remain eligible for federal disaster mitigation and recovery funding. In 2018 Arlington received funding from Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to update the Town plan. Over 2019 Arlington and MAPC will update the plan through public engagement and technical analysis. The goals established through the MVP planning process and regional resilience collaborations, as well as the Open Space & Recreation Plan and Master Plan, will be integrated into the updated hazard mitigation plan.

Arlington Reservoir Master Plan

The Reservoir Master Plan was completed in 2018 and the capital improvement projects identified therein were initiated. The goal of the Master Plan was to assess all aspects of the Reservoir, considering terrestrial and aquatic issues from both environmental and recreational perspectives. Led by the Park and Recreation Commission, DPCD, the ACC, and the Vision 2020 Reservoir Committee have provided input. Phase 1 implementation includes a new water treatment and pump system for the bathing beach as the current in-

frastructure is well beyond its life expectancy and close to failure. It will also include a pilot trail improvement project along the dirt path in Lexington. Future phases will address some of the broader environmental issues as well as trail system work.

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This past year, the program supported eight public service agencies in their work to help people who make a low to moderate income access to daily transportation, jobs, healthy foods, scholarships to athletic and summer camp programs, and mental health services and adult day health services; with CDBG, the social service agencies reached 1,831 people. The program also supported the Department of Public Works with installation of 40 ADA-compliant ramps to make streets and sidewalks more accessible. The Housing Corporation of Arlington (HCA) was supported with pre-development funding for the 34-unit development at Downing Square in Arlington Heights. HCA also made capital improvements to eight properties in their portfolio.



Arlington celebrated Community Development Week by hosting an event that began at the Thompson School for mingling, refreshments, and presentations.

Most significantly, after many years, the Arlington Housing Authority broke ground and began development of the new Life and Skills Center at Menotomy Manor. The Center will serve Menotomy Manor Family Development residents. The new space includes programming space for learning and job training, a flex space for after school programming, and spaces for property management and maintenance, laundry, a police sub-station, and a food pantry.

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Progression photos of the construction of the Life and Skills Building.

Menotomy Weatherization Assistance Program

This program in its 41st year providing weatherization, heating system, and appliance management assistance to the towns of Arlington, Belmont, Lexington, Watertown, and the cities of Cambridge, Somerville, and Waltham. The program replaced 107 heating systems, weatherized 22 homes, and audited appliances at 52 homes. The appliance management program subsequently installed 65 refrigerators, 59 air conditioners, 15 washers, and 7 dehumidifiers. The program receives public utility and state funds and continues to be recognized by the state as providing high quality energy conservation services.

Master Plan Implementation

Zoning Recodification Working Group

Recodifying the Town's Zoning Bylaw was one of the first recommended steps in implementing the 2015 Master Plan. The Zoning Recodification Working Group spent 18 months in meetings, interviews, public engagement, research, and writing a comprehensive zoning update, which was adopted at Special Town Meeting (STM) in February 2018 and subsequently approved by the Attorney General. With the completion of the recodification project, this Working Group has passed along the future work related to the Zoning Bylaw to the Zoning Bylaw Working Group.

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Zoning Bylaw Working Group

The Zoning Bylaw Working Group is reviewing and proposing zoning amendments as identified through the Master Plan and the recodification processes. Amendments under consideration are an update to the Town's sign regulations and zoning for multifamily housing; work is funded by the Town, a technical assistance grant from MAPC, and the MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. The Town hired Lisa Wise Consulting to study existing and recommend amendments to Arlington's sign regulations. The new sign regulations aim to be clear, well-organized, straightforward to understand and administer, consistent with state and federal law, and representative of best practices. To date, the Town has engaged the public at a community workshop, conducted stakeholder interviews, and reviewed a Sign Bylaw Analysis and Recommendations Report.



Panelists at Housing Forum.

Housing Initiatives

The Town of Arlington continued its strong support of affordable housing during 2018. The Housing Plan Implementation Committee (HPIC) and DPCD thanks Pamela Hallett, Executive Director of the Housing Corporation of Arlington, Chris Kluchman of the Massachusetts Housing Choice Initiative, Dana LeWinter of the Citizens' Housing and Planning Association, and Susan Connelly of the Massachusetts Housing Partnership

for being panelists at the Housing Forum held on June 14, at the Arlington Senior Center. The four panelists presented information on the crucial need to increase housing production in Arlington and the greater Boston area as well as various tools and strategies that Arlington could use to achieve the goals outlined in the Housing Production Plan.

During 2018, two members of the HPIC participated on a working group, which included a representative of the Arlington Redevelopment Board, Town staff, and a local realtor, to develop zoning recommendations in order to achieve a strategy of the Housing Production Plan: amend the Zoning Bylaw to facilitate the development of multifamily housing and mixed-use buildings in key locations along Mass. Ave. and other major corridors. Following three meetings in the fall zoning recommendations were developed with the assistance of MAPC.

The HPIC also welcomed four new members who were appointed by the Arlington Redevelopment Board during 2018 to bring the committee to full capacity at 11 members. The HPIC continues its work to implement the goals of the Housing Production Plan.

Additionally, multiple developments that include affordable housing units, moved forward:

- 20 Westminster Avenue. HCA began the renovation of this former church into 9 units of affordable housing.
- Downing Square. HCA continued to pursue additional funding to develop 34 units of affordable housing through the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development with the support of DPCD.
- 117 Broadway. HCA continued to pursue additional funding to develop 14 units of affordable housing through the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development with the support of DPCD.
- 483 Summer Street. Construction of a new mixed-use building at 483 Summer Street continued, which will include 1 unit of affordable housing to be offered through a lottery.

Historic and Cultural Resources Working Group

The Historic and Cultural Resources Working Group (HCRWG) includes representatives from the Town's Historic Districts Commission and Historical Commission, the Arlington Historical Society, and DPCD. The group is currently involved in a three-phase, historic preservation project; work is funded by the Massachusetts Historical Commission and CPA. In 2018 the group completed an update to the *Inventory of Historically or Architecturally Significant Properties in the Town of Arlington*, which resulted in 135 historically-significant residential properties being added to the in-

THE YOUNG ARLINGTON HOME BUYER



Information presented by Susan Connelly at Housing Forum.
Slide by Massachusetts Housing Partnership.

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ventory. In July the HCRWG commenced work with a consultant for a Community-Wide Historic Preservation Survey Master Plan. The purpose of the Master Plan will be to guide the Town's historic preservation efforts by identifying and prioritizing outstanding needs regarding the inventory and documentation of Arlington's local historic resources. These resources can include historic buildings and places, cultural and archaeological elements, and other significant objects and structures.

Residential Study Group

The Residential Study Group (RSG) continued working on addressing neighborhood concerns about new residential development in existing residential neighborhoods. DPCD worked with the RSG on a comprehensive study to understand trends and the impact of replacement homes in Arlington. Recommendations will be forthcoming at a future Town Meeting.

Mill Brook Working Group

The Mill Brook Working Group (MBWG) was formed to increase awareness and guide change along the Mill Brook. The MBWG is updating the 2010 Mill Brook Linear Park Report, which will include recommendations to conserve and protect this natural resource while leveraging recreational, economic development, and historic preservation opportunities.

Upcoming for 2019

The Department will continue to advance those efforts outlined above and also the following:

- Continuing implementation of the Master Plan, particularly amendments to zoning and focusing on housing, economic development, and livability.
- Continuing implementation of the [Housing Production Plan](#) to preserve and create homes that are affordable.
- Update Town's ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan to provide a comprehensive review of all facilities, programs, activities, and services operated by the Town to comply with ADA Title II.
- Develop Fair Housing Action Plan with local strategies to comply with federal and state fair housing laws.
- Develop Stormwater Management Plan and update Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Develop Mobility Plan to address and plan for how people move around the community using public or private transportation, such as driving, walking, bicycling, or accessing and riding in buses, taxis or other car services, or other transportation systems.
- Work with the Clean Energy Future Commit-

tee and Metropolitan Area Planning Council to complete a plan for Arlington to become carbon-neutral by 2050.

- Identify continued opportunities for broader application of bus rapid transit elements along major bus routes

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The goal of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) is to enhance 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 TAC works closely with the Arlington Police Department's Traffic Division, the DPW, and the DPCD, along with Arlington Public Schools (APS) and Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee (ABAC).

Major activities of the TAC and its members in 2018 included the following:

Arlington High School Traffic Review: A TAC working group reviewed the Traffic Impact Analysis for the new Arlington High School (AHS) for the Town Manager. The group reported that all alternatives used the back of the school for drop-off/pick-up as well as being the location for most vehicular and bike parking. A new connection for bikes and pedestrians between the school and the Minuteman Bikeway is planned.

Crosswalk Guidelines: As a result of several requests for new crosswalks, TAC instituted a review of its crosswalk guidelines originally adopted in 2003. The existing guidelines did not provide sufficiently specific criteria to help with the evaluation of the several requests for new crosswalks. A draft update of the TAC crosswalk guidelines was initially presented at the October meeting. TAC will vote on adopting the revised Crosswalk Guidelines early in 2019.

Gibbs School: A TAC working group participated with the School Department, DPW and Police in transportation planning for the new Gibbs Middle School. The working group focused on parent drop-off/pick-up, bus drop-off/pick-up, and bicycle and pedestrian access. The final recommendations included a second driveway to the parking lot to allow bus drop-off/pick-up in the lot next to the school building, a pull-out on Foster Street to accommodate parent drop-off/pick-up, providing an additional bus, revised crosswalks and handicap ramps.

Bike Path at Water Street: TAC was requested to review the intersection of the Minuteman Bikeway with Water Street. The intersection is complicated by drive-

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ways on either side of Water Street immediately north of the bikeway. One concern was cut-through traffic avoiding the intersection of Mystic Street and Massachusetts Avenue. TAC adopted recommendations that included notifying Google/Waze that the alley (drive-way) on the east side of Water Street is private, add a MUTCD compliant warning sign on the Water Street southbound approach to the Bikeway.

Lake Street Corridor Recommendations: TAC completed a comprehensive analysis of the Lake Street Corridor and recommended the installation of a traffic/pedestrian/bicycle signal at the intersection of Lake Street and the Minuteman Bikeway that would be coordinated with the signal at Brooks Avenue and Lake Street. The Select Board approved the recommendation and a Design Review Committee was established in early 2017 to develop a construction plan for the recommended improvements. The Design Review Committee completed a 100 percent design plan for the proposed improvements in 2018. These improvements include installation of the new signal at the Bikeway and Lake Street to improve operations and safety; signal improvements at Brooks Avenue to coordinate that signal with the Bikeway crossing signal; signage and pavement marking changes; handicap access improvements; and vegetation maintenance. The Town is in the process of securing funding for the project.

Crosswalk Flag Program: TAC continued to maintain the pedestrian crossing flag program, principally near elementary schools, to provide more visibility for students crossing busy streets on the way to school. The program is currently funded by APS and TAC members maintain the flags and canisters at each location. TAC members conducted maintenance at all locations in the fall. TAC previously adopted Flag Program Guidelines, which it uses for evaluating potential new locations requested by residents.

Speed Safety Zones: TAC began the evaluation of two locations for implementation of speed safety zones: Herbert Road at the entrance to Magnolia Park and Jason Street at the entrance to Menotomy Rocks Park. State law allows local governments to establish speed safety zones with speed limits of 20 mph in areas where specific populations may warrant slower speeds, such as park entrances, hospitals, and senior centers and housing. TAC recommended adoption of the 20 mph speed limit on Herbert Road at the entrance to Magnolia Park in December.

Traffic Regulations and Traffic Calming: TAC initiated review of several change requests to traffic regulations or development of traffic calming measures. Recommendations are expected on these requests in 2019.

Parking Implementation and Governance Committee

This committee oversees multi- and single-space parking meters in Arlington Center and prioritizes improvements in the Parking Benefits District (PBD) to be funded with parking meter revenue. At the February 2018 Special Town Meeting, PBD expenditures for the redesign of the Russell Common Parking Lot and Broadway Plaza were approved. DPCD has engaged Waterfield Design Group to create a design plan for Russell Common Parking Lot and Railroad Lot to make improvements related to vehicle parking, as well as pedestrian improvements to parking lot access, lighting, sidewalks and signage. Crowley Cottrell, LLC was hired to create a conceptual plan for Broadway Plaza to make it more accessible for pedestrians, add public seating, and protect the existing trees in the plaza. Finally, the Committee helped establish the first loading zone in Arlington on Alton Street near Broadway Plaza.

BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee (ABAC) has continued to work on making Arlington a better place to bicycle within and through. The following describes ongoing and annual activities:



2018 Highlights

Bikeway counts were conducted at Swan Place in May and September to gather data on the volumes of different types of bikeway users. Like previous counts, the data indicates that the Bikeway is extremely popular and is a critical local and regional transportation artery, and major recreational destination.

The Winter Social was a great success with 70 people in attendance. This year's presentation was given by Richard Fries, then-president of MassBike, discussing current and planned bike infrastructure. The annual bike tour highlighted the Minuteman Bikeway and local open spaces, and concluded with a reception at the Old Schwamb Mill.

ABAC continued attending semiannual meetings

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with the bicycle advisory groups in Lexington and Bedford to discuss common issues, such as unified wayfinding signage. Committee members worked with these colleagues to produce a celebration of the 25th anniversary of the completion of the Minuteman Bikeway (although the Bikeway was formally opened a year before in Arlington, the other two towns did not formally open the western end of the trail until 1993). The completion celebration was a multi-cultural event including music and arts performances along the length of the bikeway. ABAC set up a booth at the Pop-up Beer Garden in collaboration with Aeronaut Brewery. ABAC also consulted with the Town's public artist, Cecily Miller, to produce a well-received event.

Members of ABAC were on the working group that worked to introduce dockless bike share to Arlington.

Arlington's COBWEB (Cops on Bicycles with Education for Bicyclists) continues to attend ABAC meetings.

Committee members participated in Town Day, distributing 60 youth helmets generously supplied by the law firm of Breakstone, White & Gluck PC, sold Minuteman Bikeway 25th anniversary t-shirts to raise funds for future bikeway efforts, spoke with many residents about bikeshare, local bicycling rules and regulations, and the importance of safety and visibility regarding sharing the road with other transportation modes. Another significant topic that was discussed is the initiative to redesign the Lake Street/Minuteman Bikeway crossing.

Doug Mayo-Wells and Muris Kobaslija joined the ABAC Executive Committee, replacing retiring members Ron Sender and Phil Goff.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Arlington Conservation Commission (ACC) is required by state and local laws to protect and preserve wetlands, waterways, and their surrounding areas. ACC is comprised of seven volunteer Commissioners and one volunteer Associate Commissioner, who are appointed by the Town Manager with the approval of the Select Board, and supported by the Environmental Planner & Conservation Agent at bimonthly meetings and onsite visits. The ACC works to ensure that all construction and development projects that may alter any wetlands, floodplains, rivers, streams, ponds, and/or lakes are in compliance with state and local regulations. 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 Bylaw for Wetlands Protection.

In 2018 the ACC held 22 public meetings, and provided coordination, monitoring, permit review, and consultation on numerous residential and municipal projects around Town. The ACC reviewed 29 permit applications. Of the 29 applications, the Commission issued 15 Permits/Orders of Conditions, nine Determinations of Applicability, two Certificates of Compliance, and three denials. The ACC and its Agent also conducted over thirty site visits/inspections. ACC updated the Town's Wetland Regulations to add Climate Change Resilience requirements. ACC also protects and manages the Town's Conservation Lands and natural resources and does so through collaboration with other entities and grants from various sources, as described below.

Mystic Riverfront Restoration Project

In the fall of 2016 the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) awarded the Town \$47,325 through the Natural Resource Damages Assessment and Restoration Program. The grant funded the creation of a native riverbank (riparian) habitat and improved stormwater quality. The project is located along the Mystic River at the end of Park Street in the area that was directly impacted by oil released from a tanker truck that overturned nearby on Route 60 in May 2013.

Work began in October of 2017 to stabilize the slope along the riverbank, remove the broken concrete headwall, and repair the drainage pipe. In 2018 native plantings were installed to create a riparian habitat. The final phase of the restoration will include direct involvement from the community, through a community planting event in spring 2019 to enhance the riparian habitat with additional native vegetation and to provide outreach and education on this project.



New stormwater infrastructure along the Mystic River.

Conservation Land Stewards

The ACC's citizen-volunteer organization, Arlington Land Stewards (ALS), has assisted in managing 28 Town-owned conservation lands comprising approximately 53 acres. Land Stewards monitor, coordinate, and maintain conservation land of their choice, with guidance from the ACC. Additional outreach was conducted this year to increase stewardship and identify opportunities for clean-up events, including the Earth Day Clean-Ups at Wellington Park and the Symmes Woods, with 50 local volunteers. The event was a successful collaborative effort between ACC, ALS, Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA), and local Scout Troops.

Waterbodies Oversight

ACC, through its Waterbodies Working Group, continued investigation of the iron flocculation at the McClennen Park Detention Ponds to improve the site's aesthetic, recreational, and wildlife values and functions. Spring and fall sampling events were performed in 2018 by Woods Hole Group and managed by ACC. Results of the sampling and analysis events will be used to conduct an Ecological Risk Characterization and to determine whether or not a condition of "readily apparent harm" (as defined by MassDEP) to organisms exists at the site.

ACC has also worked closely with the Spy Pond Committee to ensure the health and well-being of Spy Pond and for oversight of the MassDOT assessment of the Spy Pond Sand Bar. ACC is generally working towards reducing chemical usage to control invasive plants in these prized environmental resource and recreational areas.



Sampling at Reeds Brook in McClennen Park.

Arlington Great Meadows

Arlington's Great Meadows (AGM) are comprised of 193 acres, making it Arlington's largest open space parcel, although it is located in East Lexington. AGM is mostly wetlands, but contain many upland trails that through the ACROSS Trail System make connections to Arlington Reservoir and Whipple Hill conservation area. The Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows (FoAGM) are active in increasing Arlington's awareness of this wonderful area. In 2018, FoAGM organized multiple walks at AGM and distributed information at Town Day.

FoAGM volunteers maintain the trails and boardwalks at the Meadows. This includes removing invasive plants, consisting primarily of Japanese Knotweed, along the Minuteman Bikeway. More information on FoAGM can be found at: www.FoAGM.org.

Climate Change Resilience added to the Arlington Wetlands Regulations

The Conservation Commission's newly updated Wetlands Regulations, dated March 1, 2018, include specific requirements for Climate Change Resilience considerations when applicants propose projects in wetland resource areas. The Town and ACC are at the forefront of climate change policy in MA with these updated regulations. ACC has fielded several inquiries from neighboring towns and cities, including Boston, who are trying to implement similar regulations or policies to promote climate change resilience.

Goals and Beyond

ACC will continue to encourage, support, and assist the various volunteer and environmental advocacy groups that are dedicated to preserving the Town's valued conservation lands and other open spaces. These groups include, among others: Arlington Land Stewards, Arlington Land Trust, Open Space Committee, Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows, Friends of Spy Pond Park, Friends of Menotomy Rock Park, and the Mystic River Watershed Association. Additional specific goals include the following:

- Revision of Conservation Land Stewards program materials and incorporation of educational trainings.
- Outreach on Climate Change Resilience guidance in local wetland bylaws and regulations.
- Additional collaborative Community Clean-Up events.

Acknowledgments

ACC sincerely thanks all individuals and organizations that contributed directly or indirectly to the activities of its 53rd year. Many special thanks go to the active citizenry that attended hearings and informed the Commission's discussions and the scores of volunteers

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

who came out for cleanup projects, assisted as land stewards, or participated in the many Friends groups that work to preserve the Town's natural resources and conservation lands. The ACC would like to thank Lela Shepherd, who served as the Environmental Planner and Conservation Agent from 2017-2018, for her hard-work, attention to detail, and commitment to Arlington's conservation efforts. The ACC would like to welcome Emily Sullivan as the new Environmental Planner and Conservation Agent.

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

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

The Committee's primary responsibility is to prepare the Town's official Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP), monitor its provisions and goals, and document accomplishments. The current Plan covering the years 2015 to 2022 was approved as required by the state and adopted as Town policy in the fall of 2015. Printed copies of the Plan and Appendices are available at the Robbins and Fox libraries, Department of Planning and Community Development, Select Board, and Town Manager offices, and certain other Town departments, and it is posted on the Committee's website.

The OSC website also features several other ongoing initiatives. Working with staff in the DPCD, the Committee developed "Experiencing Arlington's Open Spaces," a web-based application that makes much of the Plan's site information available for viewing on a computer, smart phone, or tablet. For each of the nineteen open space sites featured there are multiple photographs and a brief description of the property, as well as a map showing access points and internal walking trails.

Another project that continued through 2018, Take A Walk, also builds on the OSRP by promoting safe and interesting walking routes that connect open spaces and other significant sites around Arlington. The website currently hosts a map of the East Arlington routes, and other routes will be added in 2019.

A third project, Picture Post, was developed by

OSC member John Pickle to encourage residents with digital cameras and smart phones to take documentary photos at designated locations at Menotomy Rocks Park and the Reservoir, with other sites to be added later. This Picture Post initiative is linked to a national database that archives photos documenting the same locations over time so the visual data can be analyzed for future scientific, maintenance, and planning purposes.



The Arlington Great Meadows, as featured on "Experiencing Arlington's Open Spaces".

Committee members also continued to monitor and contribute to a wide range of open space projects and activities that affect the Town and its residents' quality of life, including those funded by the Community Preservation Act; the Water Bodies Fund, which funds control of invasive plants and water quality issues at Spy Pond, the Reservoir and other sites; and expansion of the ACROSS Lexington trail system into Arlington's Great Meadows and the Reservoir area, in coordination with the Conservation Commission. As part of its community education goals, OSC participated in Town Day in September, as always.

An ongoing open space concern is the proposed development of the Mugar property in East Arlington under the state's Chapter 40B provision for housing development. Protection of this sensitive wetland has been a goal of the Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan since the 1990s. OSC has joined many Town entities, the Arlington Land Trust, and other environmental organizations to advocate for conservation of the Mugar land rather than development due to potential flooding and related ecological problems.

The Committee's previous work on researching

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and raising awareness about Mill Brook and the possibility of enhancing that natural resource corridor was adopted as a priority in the Town's 2015 Master Plan. OSC members continue to be involved with the Mill Brook Corridor Working Group, part of the Master Plan Implementation Committee, and with the Mystic River Watershed Association, which has received CPA grants to explore improvements at Wellington Park and adjacent sections of the brook between Grove and Brattle Streets. For a related project at Wellington Park the Town received nearly \$400,000 for flood management and environmental restoration along the brook through the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program funded by the state.

The Committee is monitoring the many goals and objectives outlined in the 2015-2022 Open Space and Recreation Plan and have established a process for documenting accomplishments, in preparation for the next revision of the Plan. In 2019 it will continue to update and expand the Experiencing Arlington's Open Spaces, Take A Walk and Picture Post projects, and enhance use of the Town website to disseminate maps and other information about local open spaces and recreational facilities. Members will continue their collaborations with both Town departments and community organizations to ensure that open space and recreation recommendations are fully incorporated into all future town-wide planning.

ENVISION ARLINGTON

About Envision Arlington

Envision Arlington, established by Town Meeting in June 1992, is a collection of committees that brings together residents, Town employees and Town leaders to foster an engaged, culturally diverse, and civically active community. The Standing Committee is charged to "create, implement, monitor, and review methods for town-wide participation in the Envision Arlington process."

Envision Arlington's focus is on the Town Goals, enacted by Town Meeting in 1993, as statements of Arlington's values and aspirations. Task Groups and Committees are organized around specific Town Goals. A modest budget from the Town allows Envision Arlington to sponsor public events and develop community programs. Descriptions of Envision Arlington's Task Groups and Committees can be found at arlingtonma.gov/envision.

Annual Town Survey

Envision Arlington volunteers work with Town departments and organizations to create an annual survey of the priorities and opinions of people in Arlington. Results of the survey are provided to Town Meeting and to the groups who helped compose the survey; results are

also posted on the Town website.

The 2018 Town Survey was administered online to save paper and reduce volunteer hours needed to process thousands of printed surveys. A survey notice was mailed to 19,120 households as an insert to the Town's Annual Census mailing in January. Approximately 11 percent of households responded to the 2018 survey, compared with 33 percent in 2017; new outreach efforts are being explored to increase response rates to the 2019 survey. Survey results can be found at arlingtonma.gov/envision.



Envision Arlington booth at Town Day

2018 Highlights

Envision Arlington presented two articles at the 2018 Annual Town Meeting.

- Article 21 changed the name of the organization from Vision 2020 to Envision Arlington and updated the statement of purpose.
- Article 38 appropriated \$60,000 to the Town's Water Body Fund for the maintenance, treatment, and oversight of the Town's water bodies.

Task Group Highlights

Diversity: The Diversity Task Group (DTG) meets regularly during the year to engage residents on a wide range of issues. The group aims to be a container for diversity issues in the district, town, schools, and homes, with the hope of offering support and education through various projects and in response to tensions and incidents in the community. DTG provides ongoing leadership to the Superintendent's Diversity Advisory Committee, advocating for recruiting, employing and retaining staff of color in the Arlington Public Schools (APS).

Throughout 2018, DTG invited organizations and residents that run town-wide operations with educational, social, cultural, and economic impact to share their stories with our members. Speakers included:

- Sumaiya Zama, Youth Empowerment Coordinator, Council on American Islamic Relations-Massachusetts spoke about a Muslim woman's perspective on being different in a predominantly white suburb and what Arling-

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- ton can learn from her experiences.
- State Rep. Sean Garballey provided a background on key legislation he sponsored and co-sponsored on anti-bullying measures in schools.
- Andrea Nicolay, Director of Libraries.
- Cpt. Julie Flaherty spoke about racial bias training for the Arlington Police Department (APD).
- Laura Kiesel, co-chair of Tenants for Livable Arlington spoke on how the Town's overnight parking ban significantly affects low income residents.
- Representatives and co-chairs from the Human Rights Coalition, Restorative Justice, Rainbow Commission, Equal Opportunity Advisory Committee, Arlington's Senior Town Planner.

DTG participated in several events:

- Town Day: meeting and hearing many stories from our neighbors.
- Bridging Communities: a catered evening gathering Arlington resident families and families in the METCO.
- Fall apple picking event with families in METCO, Arlington residents, APD and their families and a School Committee member.
- International Film Festival.
- Arlington Reads: preparing book submissions for the Town.
- Supporting the work of the Human Rights Commission.

Members of the DTG engaged in several targeted projects throughout the year. A particular focus in 2018 was supporting the Arlington Public School commitment to work on cultural competency and complementing existing anti-bullying curriculum.

- Parent Diversity and Inclusion Groups are in process of getting started in the 10 Arlington Public Schools after several engaging parent listening sessions with school administration and personnel. This work supports each school in satisfying the [district goals](#).
- Students in Ottoson Middle School and Arlington High School were trained in Active Bystanding. Parents in elementary schools are being offered this opportunity to complement the anti-bullying curriculum at APS.
- DTG supported culturally sensitive learning within APS programs, e.g. Colonial Day, "crazy hair day", "family tree research," and facilitated forums to help parents become more comfortable talking about race and identity.

- "Belonging in Arlington: A Community Conversation": DTG will have a general invitation to residents to participate in a speed-dating identity conversation with another member of the Arlington community. The conversations will be facilitated so the results can be communicated to the public in late spring or summer.

Governance: The Governance Task Group organized three large, public events in 2018: Candidates Night in March with the League of Women Voters, Orientation for New Town Meeting Members led by Town Moderator John Leone, and the Meeting for All Precincts in early April to provide a forum for newly elected Town Meeting members and residents from their precincts to discuss issues on the warrant.

Fiscal Resources: The Fiscal Resources Task Group (FRTG) researches topics related to the Town's finances and reports findings and recommendations to the appropriate town departments, officials and the public at large. In 2018, the following activities were undertaken:

- Citizens Corner: FRTG expanded on the series of articles it has published in the *Arlington Advocate* summarizing how the Town functions, including an article on the new Finance Department and a compilation entitled "Arlington Governmental Primer."
- Leadership Interviews: FRTG initiated a new series of short *Arlington Advocate* articles and expanded online presentations of in-depth interviews of Town and School department heads and other leadership to further acquaint residents to their work.
- Financial Leadership: As part of an ongoing series of informational interviews with Town financial leaders, FRTG met with Town Treasurer Dean Carmen to discuss the department's operations and the integration of the department into a Town Finance Department.
- Long Range Financial Projections: FRTG developed a long-range financial plan analysis, using a variety of assumptions, to help town officials better understand the town's finances. Results were forwarded to the Select Board and Town Manager.
- Warrant Article Review: FRTG reviewed and discussed the 2018 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Education: The primary mission of the Education Task Group (ETG) is to foster community dialogue on the future of public education in Arlington. The Arlington High School rebuild project preempted most of ETG's

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planned activities in 2018. In 2019, ETG will focus on creating a district-wide “Vision of the Graduate”, based on the Arlington High School Educational Program approved by the School Committee and APS. Discussions will cover the efforts being made in Arlington Public Schools to prepare students for success beyond high school graduation. Based on the results of these meetings, ETG will plan future sessions related to educational preparation at Ottoson Middle School.

Reservoir Committee: The Reservoir Committee is one of three committees of the Environment Task Group of Envision Arlington. The Committee works with Town departments to maintain and improve the area around the Reservoir.



Reservoir Work Day Crew—April 28, 2018

2018 was a busy year for the Arlington Reservoir Committee. The Wildlife Habitat Garden had its eighth growing season. The committee had help from many on public work days and other events. Water chestnut mechanical harvesting continued in the summer under the management of the Arlington DPW. In addition, the Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA) held corporate hand harvesting events in the spring and fall. The committee hopes to increase these volunteer efforts in the future, and welcomes participation from schools, community groups, and others.

Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding was granted in 2017 to develop a Master Plan for the Arlington Reservoir—the first step of a major capital improvement project. The goal was to assess all aspects of the Reservoir, considering terrestrial and aquatic issues from both environmental and recreational perspectives. This project was led by the Park and Recreation Commission with participation of the Conservation Commission and the Reservoir Committee. The completed Reservoir Master Plan was released by project consultants Weston & Sampson early in 2018.

Implementation of the Reservoir Master Plan began shortly thereafter. CPA funding for the phase one of the work was approved primarily for targeting a water treatment system for the beach area, which is old and close to failure. CPA money will also help finance a pilot

project to restore 60 feet of trail on the dirt path next to LexFarm.

For more information about committee activities, project updates, environmental permit documents, Reservoir Master Plan, and to subscribe to the Reservoir email list, visit the Reservoir website:

www.arlingtonreservoir.org.

Sustainable Arlington: Sustainable Arlington is one of three committees of Envision Arlington’s Environment Task Group. It promotes environmental awareness and climate resilience, while engaging residents and Town government in protecting our local environment. Monthly meetings and other events are listed at sustainablearlington.org and the Committee’s Facebook page.

Sustainable Arlington members served on the following Town groups in 2018: the Arlington High School Building Committee; the Town Manager’s Energy Working Group; the Town Manager’s Gas Leaks Task Force; the Recycling Committee; and the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program.

The Committee worked with the Town and other groups to plan and host the 2018 EcoFest, a free, four-hour public event for all ages at Town Hall in March. With the title “Greenward,” EcoFest focused on three aspects of public and private land use: Land and Water Management, Plants and Pollinators, and People and Healthy Ecosystems.

Sustainable Arlington worked throughout the year with the Arlington chapter of Mothers Out Front to provide publicity and education around Arlington’s Community Choice Aggregation electricity program, in particular, to educate residents about the positive climate impact of opting to use up to 50% or 100% New England-generated renewable energy.

A new video about Arlington’s Community Choice Aggregation, featuring Town Manager Adam Chapdelaine, Select Board Member Joseph Curro, and Erin Taylor of Green Energy Consumers Alliance was made by Josh Katofsky, a 2018 Arlington High School graduate, and Brucie Moulton of Sustainable Arlington and Arlington Mothers Out Front. The video was shown for the first time in September at “Paint the Town Green: Celebrate Arlington’s path to a sustainable future.” This free, public event at Town Hall presented Arlington’s last decade of initiatives to increase energy efficiency, and to promote and adopt renewable energy for home and Town use. Speakers included Town Energy Manager Ken Pruitt and Green Energy Consumers Alliance representative Erin Taylor. School Superintendent Dr. Kathleen Bodie and School Sustainability Coordinator Rachel Oliveri highlighted Arlington’s new Green Ribbon Schools and the school Green Teams.

Sustainable Arlington also:

- Wrote a letter supporting the Town’s suc-

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successful grant application to the State's Municipal Vulnerability Program for funds to perform work along the Mill Brook Corridor;

- Assisted Town Energy Manager Ken Pruitt in preparing Arlington's application for the 2019 HeatSmart program run by the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center; and
- Co-sponsored public education programs on the 2018 plastic bag ban and a rodenticide panel discussion with Q & A, including Animal Control Officer Diane Welch and a red-tailed hawk.

Sustainable Arlington member Monique Ouimette successfully proposed a three-session class through Arlington Community Education. Called "The Healthier Home," the class will cover product choices and issues relating to personal care and hygiene, household cleaning and landscaping.

Spy Pond Committee: The Spy Pond Committee arlingtonma.gov/spypond is part of the Environment Task Group for Envision Arlington. In 2018, MassDOT initiated a study of the Spy Pond sandbar by water resource engineers at VHB, Inc. The Committee reviewed the initial plans at MassDOT District 4 with the Arlington DPW and Conservation Commission. VHB followed up with core samples of the sandbar and a shoreline survey. The results of the survey and VHB's recommendations will guide future plans and projects.

The Committee continued to work to remove invasive species. This year volunteers found eleven water chestnuts and hundreds of attached seeds in various locations west of the Boys and Girls Club. All plants and all but three seeds were removed. In mid-August, Solitude Lake Management treated a bumper crop of snail-seed pondweed and emergent European naiad. Many plants had a covering of filamentous algae. Eurasian milfoil was not a problem this year.

The increase in invasive plants and unexpected vegetation led to a letter expressing concern about Spy Pond. With the Water Bodies Group of the Conservation Commission, the Committee issued RFPs for pond management and aquatic plant assessment, and improved signage and education on invasive species. Next year, the Committee anticipates a multi-year project to develop a Town Waterbody Management Plan.

Chemicals in Spy Pond are also an ongoing concern. In May Tufts University Professor, John Durant, spoke with the Committee on various studies of Spy Pond over the past 20 years. Arsenical herbicides were deposited in the 1960s. In samples from 1998-1999, arsenic had migrated through the sediment. In addition, the State has reported DDT and chlordane and restricts the eating of bottom-feeding fish.



The Committee saw engagement from volunteers and government agencies alike in 2018. In the spring high school students and neighborhood volunteers delivered 3,300 fertilizer education flyers to homes in the Spy Pond watershed. Along with the Arlington-Belmont Crew Team and AMC, volunteers cleaned the Rt. 2 path, removed invasives, maintained the access points, and pruned vistas. In the fall MassDOT removed excessive brush from the Rt. 2 bank. At Town Day children cleaned out a storm drain model (created for EcoFest) with a clam shovel, while their parents viewed a water chestnut.

Spy Pond hosted a hundred cormorants, common and hooded mergansers, buffleheads, great blue herons, and other waterfowl. Eagles were frequent visitors, and an eagle family staged a spectacular food fight on the ice. There were several days of skating on black ice, but the pond was ice free more than normal. A Canadian goose family started late and the Spy Pond swans raised five cygnets.

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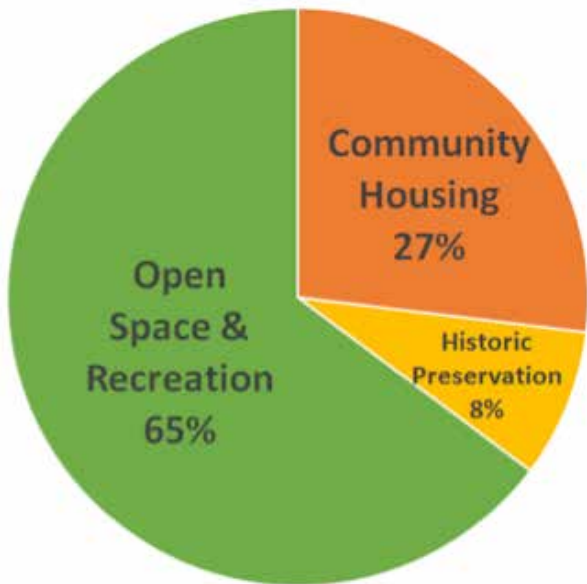
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Arlington began implementing the Community Preservation Act (CPA) in 2015. The CPA allows cities and towns to reserve dedicated funds to preserve open space and historic sites, create affordable community housing, and develop outdoor recreational facilities. CPA projects are financed by local revenues collected from a property tax surcharge (in Arlington, 1.5% of the net tax levy minus exemptions), plus annual distributions from the state CPA trust fund.

The Community Preservation Committee studies local community preservation needs, recommends CPA appropriations to Town Meeting, and oversees projects funded by CPA. In 2018, the committee reviewed project applications for CPA funding in fiscal year 2019, hosted public applicant presentations, and ultimately recommended six projects to Town Meeting for funding. The Committee consulted with the Select Board, Finance Committee, Capital Planning Committee, and other Town leaders in reaching our recommendations.

- \$39,500 for a comprehensive site study and plan for the recreational area behind the Hardy School.
- \$991,000 for the first phase of construction at the Arlington Reservoir to address its most urgent needs.
- \$172,523 for the second phase of a pilot study of the Mill Brook Linear Park, including a design and revitalization plan for the Town-owned Wellington Park area.
- \$72,348 to fund further structural repair, envelope restoration, sprinkler and electrical upgrades at the Jason Russell House.
- \$82,000 for the preservation of the exterior envelope of the Old Schwamb Mill.
- \$500,000 to create 48 units of affordable housing spread over proposed developments at Downing Square, and a building on Broadway.
- For more information, please visit arlington-ma.gov/communitypreservation.

FY2019 CPA Projects*



*This chart reflects spending by category as a percentage of the total expenditure, not a percentage of annual CPA revenue, as CPA funding is drawn from both yearly revenue and reserves from previous years. A minimum of 10% of annual CPA revenue must be dedicated to each category

CPA Projects Funded for FY2019

Following the recommendation of the Committee, Town Meeting appropriated a total of \$1,857,371 in CPA funds for FY2019 projects supporting local community housing, historic preservation, and open space and recreation:

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 five citizen members, appointed jointly by the chairs of the Select Board, Finance Committee, and School Committee, a representative of the School Committee and in addition the Town Manager, Superintendent of Schools, and Facilities Director or their designees.

2018 Highlights

Gibbs School (renovation): The scope of work includes the reconfiguration of interior spaces, building envelope improvements, the complete rebuilding of internal spaces, and upgraded building systems in order to reopen this building as a dedicated sixth grade school. Construction started in July 2017 following the departure of former tenants of the building. Significant additional renovation needs were uncovered early in the construction phase, and were addressed by expansions in the scope of the project. The school reopened on-time for all sixth-grade students in the Arlington public school system in the Fall of 2018. The Committee anticipates achieving a LEED v4 Silver designation for this project. Project budget \$27m.

Hardy School (addition): Construction on a six-classroom addition to the Hardy School was started in late Spring 2018. This project includes renovations to the cafeteria to accommodate the increase in students, as well as exterior improvements of play areas and ac-

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cess walkways. As of late 2018, the project was on-time and well below the original budget. Project budget \$4.8m.

Public Works Yard (renovation): At the December 5 Special Town Meeting, the members voted 180-9 to approve \$1.25m for the detailed design and construction documents phase of the Town Yard project. In early 2019 this project will come under the regular oversight of the Permanent Town Building Committee, with construction anticipated for later in 2019.

Central School (renovation): This renovation project for the ground and first floors of the Central School is expected to move into the design phase in early 2019.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

In 2018 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 eleven petitions. Since its inception in 1946 the Zoning Board of Appeals has heard and rendered decisions on over 3,300 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 and two associate members. 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 Tuesdays 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 atarlingtonma.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.

2018 Petitions Heard By ZBA	
Petitions for Variance	7
Applications for Special Permits	20
Appeal of Decision of Inspector of Buildings	4
Amendments to SP/Variances	0
Comprehensive Permits	0
Total	
Total Petitions filed with Town Clerk	31
Total Hearing Continued by the board	5
Total Petitions withdrawn	2
Total Petitions sent to ARB	5

ARLINGTON HOUSING AUTHORITY



4 Winslow Street, Arlington, MA 02474 p: 781-646-3400 f: 781-646-0496

The Arlington Housing Authority (AHA) is proud of its distinction of being the largest single provider of affordable housing in the community. Our mission is to provide adequate, affordable, and safe housing to low, very-low, and extremely low-income families from the Town of Arlington and surrounding communities through collaborative partnerships with community agencies and to manage Housing Authority finances in a fiscally responsible manner. This year marks the Housing Authority's seventieth year offering housing to people who make low to moderate income, either through direct housing in government owned developments or subsidized housing in privately owned dwellings.

The Arlington Housing Authority manages 1,156 housing units: 520 units for the elderly and disabled at Winslow Towers, Chesnut Manor, Cusack Terrace, Drake Village, Decatur Gardens and the Hauser Building, 179 units of family housing at Menotomy Manor, with ten handicapped accessible wheel chair units, the Donnelly House for 13 developmentally challenged residents, and 422 Housing Choice Vouchers that help participants live in privately-owned dwellings throughout the community.

The Authority is a quasi-governmental agency created by Arlington's Town Meeting in 1948 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.

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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*, Brian Connor, *Vice-Chairman*, Daniel Brosnan, *Treasurer*, Nicholas Mitropoulos and *Members*, Richard B. Murray and Joseph Daly.

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 2018 the AHA continued modernization work to all of its buildings, as well as the continued expansion of its tenant services support programs, and worked on creative partnerships with many housing groups and service providers in the community.

Below are a few highlights of successful projects at each building.

Cusack Terrace, 67 Units *8 Summer Street*

In 2018 AHA began the planning stages for an elevator replacement project, which will be commencing shortly and has an expected completion date of mid-June. Upcoming projects include Americans with Disabilities (ADA) common area bathrooms.

Winslow Towers, 132 Units *4 Winslow Street*

The fire pump room was completed at Winslow Towers as well as a building envelope evaluation. Current projects planned are the replacement of windows that have been leaking and causing damage to the units and to update common area bathrooms to meet ADA compliance.

Chestnut Manor, 100 Units *54 Medford Street*

Modernization projects that were completed in 2018 included the replacement of a sewerage ejector pump. Current projects include the upgrading of building and unit fire alarms. Future projects include ADA common area bathrooms.

Drake Village, 72 Units and the *Hauser Building, 144 Units* *37 Drake Road*

2018 modernization projects included replacing 41-year old original windows with new energy efficient windows. AHA received a \$1.4 million HILAPP Award and \$200,000 from Arlington Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds for this project. Upcoming projects include ADA common area bathrooms.

Menotomy Manor, 179 Units *Freemont Court*

2018 modernization projects included building of the new life and skills center. This exciting project creates a larger space for programs including Operation Success, Fidelity House, and the Food Pantry. In addition, residents will be able to use the buildings new laundry facilities.

998 Mass. Ave. *Special Needs Housing*

Completed projects including siding and porch replacements. Future projects include interior renovations.

Community Partnerships

2018 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. Under the supervision of correctional personnel, inmates assisted the AHA maintenance staff in its spring and fall cleanup efforts.

Minuteman Senior Services has been very successful at our Drake Village location by providing services to our seniors and a meals program. The quality of life for our residents has improved with the helpful resources that Minuteman Senior Services provides.

The Fidelity House continued afternoon programs in our Menotomy Manor Development that provides transportation to children, free memberships and financial assistance to make summer programs more attainable for families and their children. This program has been extremely successful, with a large number of residents participating.

The award winning evening program, Operation Success, continues to be a major factor in improving grades by providing homework help and guidance for the residents of Menotomy Manor. Janet Maguire and Peggy Regan run this program with a large group of young volunteers.

The continued partnership between the AHA and the Arlington Police Department has had a positive effect on the residents and neighbors of Menotomy Manor. The AHA continues to see a large decrease in crime and expanded services to the area.

The annual cookouts for the elderly and disabled residents were held in each of our four elderly/handicapped developments. Residents continue to enjoy the good food, music, and great company.

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.

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Challenges Ahead

The average rent in our 520 units of elderly/disabled housing is \$427 per month and includes heat, hot water, and electricity. The average rent in our family units at Menotomy Manor is \$621 per month with the resident paying their own utilities. Over 95% of the residents living in the Arlington Housing Authority's public housing units would not be able to afford the new affordable housing units being built in Arlington. As the AHA continues to house the lowest income and disabled residents of our community the lack of support and lack of funding for Arlington's public housing program is a major concern. While the AHA applies for all funding opportunities available, and utilizes 100% of the funds received, there is still a great deficit in the funding needed to ensure optimal quality of life for our residents.

Administrative Services

The 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 provides valuable information to those wishing to learn more about the AHA and its programs. Applications for housing can be downloaded from our website. www.arlingtonhousing.org.

Wait Lists

In the past few months DHCD has rolled out the new state-aided public housing waiting list called CHAMP or Common Housing Application for Massachusetts Public-Housing. Applicants will soon be able to submit and self-manage their applications through the on-line portal from a computer, smartphone, or tablet and apply for available public housing across the Commonwealth.

Stated-Aided Elderly/Handicap One Bedroom Units

Total: 1,171 applicants

State-Aided Family 2-Bedroom Units

Total: 1,183 applicants

State-Aided Family 3-Bedroom Units

Total: 615 applicants

Section 8 Wait List

Arlington Applicants: *636

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

Acknowledgments

The Arlington Housing Authority would like to

thank all its employees for their dedication throughout the year.