



To: Town Meeting Members and Town Officials

From: Vision 2020 Standing Committee and Task Group Chairs

Co-Chairs: Mary Harrison and Bruce Moulton

Standing Committee: Adria Arch, Brad Barber, Kathleen Bodie, John Budzyna, Claire Carswell, AdamChapdelaine, Joe Connelly, Daniel Dunn, Andrew Fischer, Bruce Fitzsimmons, Joey Glushko, Leba Heigham, Jane Howard, Gordon Jamieson, Elizabeth Karpati, John Leone, Josh Lobel, Gail McCormick, Charlotte Milan, Cheryl Miller, Angela Olszewski, Stephen Ricci, Tarajee Pass, David White

Date: May 6, 2013

Subject: Vision 2020 Report to the Annual Town Meeting

The Vision 2020 Standing Committee and its Task Groups are pleased to present the following report on their projects and activities for calendar year 2012, along with Warrants 23 and 40 and the 2013 Annual Survey, "Collaborative Arlington: Exchanging Information, Working Together." The attached survey overview of basic findings will be rounded out and discussed in the final report later this summer. For further detail on the work Vision 2020 has performed on behalf of the Town of Arlington, please see:

- The Town's 2013 Annual Report, pages 92 – 101, briefly reviews Vision 2020's history, describes specific Standing Committee and Task Group accomplishments in 2012, and ends with the results of the 2012 survey, "Mastering Our Future: Help Arlington Prepare for its Upcoming Master Planning Process."
- The Selectman's recommended vote in their Report to the 2013 Annual Town Meeting for Warrant Article 23 (Public Art Fund) was affirmed by Town Meeting on April 29, 2013; the Finance Committee's recommended vote on Article 40 (Waterbodies Fund) comes before you on May 6.

This year's survey netted responses from 4,458 households by the March 15 cut-off date, making 2013 the fourth consecutive year with more than 4,000 survey returns. The 4,458 surveys received represents a 24% response rate. The bulk – 4,026 – were on paper, while 432 were completed on-line. Town Meeting Members may be interested in the precinct and Town government-related data.

The Vision 2013 Survey, "Collaborative Arlington: Exchanging Information, Working Together," looked at several ways that residents might participate in and learn about neighborhood and town-wide events. We asked how many knew at least one of their Town Meeting Members and how many had talked with a Town Meeting Member about a Town issue or concern. We listed ten different Town-government events and asked respondents to indicate which events they had attended or viewed on ACMi Cable TV. Given the rapidly changing ways of communicating information, we asked about the communications channels (9 print, 16 electronic, and 3 word of mouth) used by residents to stay informed about Arlington events and issues. Volunteering is another way to participate in the life of a community. We measured volunteer activity of all household members by age, hours per month, and whether residents volunteer in Arlington or elsewhere. Given the numerous Town and other committees in Arlington that rely on volunteers, we asked about motivations for volunteering as well as conditions that make it difficult. Finally, since familiarity with and support for Town of Arlington Goals is another aspect of community participation, we looked at awareness of and support for the nine goals enacted as Town Bylaw in 1993. The goals identify valued features of life in Arlington and point to a need for collaboration between residents and Town government to ensure a vital and resilient community.

Basic data from the 2013 survey are attached here. Complete results and analysis will be posted on the Town website this summer and reported in the Town's 2013 Annual Report.

Vision 2020 Annual Survey Results for 2013

Demographics

Total Responses: 4,458
Paper or Survey Monkey

	Count	%
Paper	4,026	90%
Online	432	10%

Precinct

	#	%
Pct 1	143	3.2%
Pct 2	199	4.5%
Pct 3	254	5.7%
Pct 4	237	5.3%
Pct 5	210	4.7%
Pct 6	213	4.8%
Pct 7	203	4.6%
Pct 8	251	5.6%
Pct 9	204	4.6%
Pct 10	255	5.7%
Pct 11	196	4.4%
Pct 12	243	5.5%
Pct 13	159	3.6%
Pct 14	202	4.5%
Pct 15	189	4.2%
Pct 16	200	4.5%
Pct 17	178	4.0%
Pct 18	178	4.0%
Pct 19	195	4.4%
Pct 20	197	4.4%
Pct 21	205	4.6%
(blank)	147	3.3%

Household includes children < 18

	#	% <18
Under 18 yrs	1,341	30%
(blank)	3,117	70%

Household includes 18-29 year olds

	#	%
18-29 years	700	16%
(blank)	3,758	84%

Household includes 30-54 year olds

	#	%
30-54 years	2,569	58%
(blank)	1,889	42%

Household includes 55-64 year olds

	#	%
55-64 years	1,005	23%
(blank)	3,453	77%

Household includes 65-74 year olds

	#	%
65-74 years	629	14%
(blank)	3,829	86%

Household includes 75+ year olds

	#	%
Over 74 yrs	584	13%
(blank)	3,874	87%

Years in Arlington

	#	%
Less than 5 years	1,233	28%
5-15 years	1,351	30%
16-25 years	681	15%
26-40 years	493	11%
More than 40 years	644	14%
(blank)	56	1%

Housing Type

	#	%
Single Family	2,297	52%
Condo	711	16%
2-4 units	1,060	24%
5 or more units	326	7%
(blank)	64	1%

Own/Rent

	#	%
Own	3,179	71%
Rent	1,214	27%
(blank)	65	1%

Does household have Internet Access

	#	%
Yes	4,086	92%
No	286	6%
(blank)	86	2%

Vision 2020 Annual Survey Results for 2013



Participation

Your household is part of the Town of Arlington as a whole and also part of a particular neighborhood. We would like to learn how and why Arlington residents engage with their community.

Does your household participate in activities in your neighborhood?

	#	%
Yes	2,136	61%
No	1,218	35%
Total Yes Plus No	3,354	96%
Unaware of neighborhood activities	1,298	37%

Does your household attend Town-wide events (such as Town Day, Feast of the East, Eco-Fest, Patriots' Day events, school performances, sports)?

	#	%
Yes	3,146	71%
No	1,263	29%
Total	4,409	100%

Do you know one or more of your Town Meeting Members?

	#	%
Yes	1,466	33%
No	2,945	67%
Total	4,411	100%

Have you talked with a Town Meeting Member about a town issue or concern?

	#	%
Yes	930	21%
No	3,470	79%
Total	4,400	100%

Do you know Town Meeting Rep, by Precinct

	#		%	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
Pct 1	35	108	24%	76%
Pct 2	56	140	29%	71%
Pct 3	62	189	25%	75%
Pct 4	59	175	25%	75%
Pct 5	52	158	25%	75%
Pct 6	49	162	23%	77%
Pct 7	51	150	25%	75%
Pct 8	122	129	49%	51%
Pct 9	57	145	28%	72%
Pct 10	109	144	43%	57%
Pct 11	74	121	38%	62%
Pct 12	117	125	48%	52%
Pct 13	64	94	41%	59%
Pct 14	57	142	29%	71%
Pct 15	81	108	43%	57%
Pct 16	81	118	41%	59%
Pct 17	48	130	27%	73%
Pct 18	58	117	33%	67%
Pct 19	71	123	37%	63%
Pct 20	54	140	28%	72%
Pct 21	71	133	35%	65%
(blank)	38	94	29%	71%

Have you discussed issues with a Town Meeting Rep, by Precinct

	#		%	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
Pct 1	24	119	17%	83%
Pct 2	26	170	13%	87%
Pct 3	42	208	17%	83%
Pct 4	46	185	20%	80%
Pct 5	36	174	17%	83%
Pct 6	41	171	19%	81%
Pct 7	38	163	19%	81%
Pct 8	83	166	33%	67%
Pct 9	38	164	19%	81%
Pct 10	69	184	27%	73%
Pct 11	41	154	21%	79%
Pct 12	67	176	28%	72%
Pct 13	35	123	22%	78%
Pct 14	41	159	20%	80%
Pct 15	53	135	28%	72%
Pct 16	52	144	27%	73%
Pct 17	32	146	18%	82%
Pct 18	33	143	19%	81%
Pct 19	45	148	23%	77%
Pct 20	32	160	17%	83%
Pct 21	34	169	17%	83%
(blank)	22	109	17%	83%

Vision 2020 Annual Survey Results for 2013

Events and Issues

Attended or Viewed Events

Has your household attended any of the following Town government-related events or viewed them on Arlington's ACMi Cable TV or ACMi online?

% indicates Percentage of Total Survey Respondents - 4458

	Count	% Attended	Count	% Viewed
Ann./Special Town Meeting	463	10%	606	14%
Board of Selectmen Mtg.	356	8%	684	15%
Candidates' Night	293	7%	389	9%
Public Forum	410	9%	249	6%
Finance Comm. Mtg.	95	2%	244	5%
Public Hearing	416	9%	280	6%
School Comm. Mtg.	381	9%	551	12%
State of the Town Address	108	2%	227	5%
Town Board or Commission Mtg.	251	6%	250	6%
Precinct Mtg.	120	3%	138	3%

Communication Matters

Communication is vital to residents' engagement with their community and civic participation. The Town wants to know the most effective ways to get timely information to residents about Town events, issues, and procedures.

What communication sources does your household currently use to learn about Arlington Events (such as Town Day or Feast of the East) and Issues affecting the Town (such as schools, recycling, and financial matters)?

Print Sources - What print sources has your household used within the last year to learn about Town/School events and issues?

% indicates Percentage of Total Survey Respondents - 4458

	# Events	% Events	# Issues	% Issues
Arlington Advocate	2,204	49%	2,053	46%
Arlington Shopper	1,666	37%	643	14%
Boston Globe	1,509	34%	1,662	37%
Faith community newsletter	269	6%	196	4%
Neighborhood/ comm. newsletter	510	11%	406	9%
Flyers on bulletin boards	1,082	24%	410	9%
School messages sent home	852	19%	620	14%
Town Warrant mailings	1,026	23%	1,576	35%
Other printed materials	560	13%	520	12%

Vision 2020 Annual Survey Results for 2013

Events and Issues

Electronic/Online Sources: What sources has your household used within the last year to learn about Town/School events and issues?

% indicates Percentage of Total Survey Respondents - 4458

	# Events	% Events	# Issues	% Issues
Arlingtonma.gov	2,242	50%	2,144	48%
Town of Arlington Alerts	1,647	37%	1,706	38%
Town of Arlington Notices	1,439	32%	1,329	30%
Arlington Public Schools website	943	21%	684	15%
Arlington Public Schools - email lists	862	19%	701	16%
Arlington Parents' listserv	577	13%	531	12%
ACMi Cable TV	462	10%	437	10%
ACMi Cable online	106	2%	111	2%
E-mails from groups	948	21%	799	18%
Arlington Patch	1,001	22%	975	22%
Your Arlington	291	7%	349	8%
The Arlington List	754	17%	781	18%
Arlington Advocate	1,337	30%	1,239	28%
Boston.com	1,137	26%	1,073	24%
Facebook/Twitter	459	10%	353	8%
Community org. websites	528	12%	386	9%

C. Spoken (Word of Mouth) Communication: In what ways has your household talked with others within the last year to learn about Town/School events and issues?

% indicates Percentage of Total Survey Respondents - 4458

	#	% Events	#	% Issues
Neighborhood/Town conversations	2,382	53%	2,409	54%
Committee/Group conversations	613	14%	688	15%
At a social gathering	1,797	40%	1,739	39%

Even if you regularly use all three of the following types of communication to obtain Town information, which one source do you use most frequently?

	#	%
Electronic/Online	2,316	52%
Print source	1,099	25%
Word of mouth	665	15%
(blank)	378	8%

Vision 2020 Annual Survey Results for 2013

Volunteering

Arlington is rich in volunteers who serve the Town, nonprofit organizations, various causes, and other interests. The following questions relate to volunteer work done for the Town or State; schools; faith organizations; professional, trade or other work-related groups; sports; and special interest groups.

Do adults in your household serve as volunteers?

	#	% Adults
Yes	1,922	46%
No	2,220	54%
Total	4,142	100%

Do children in your household serve as volunteers?

	#	% Children
Yes	385	20%
No	1,510	80%
Total	1,895	100%

Do any members of your household volunteer in Arlington?

	#	% In Arlington
Yes	1,421	35%
No	2,669	65%
Total	4,090	100%

Do any members of your household volunteer outside Arlington?

	#	% Outside
Yes	1,768	44%
No	2,273	56%
Total	4,041	100%

Listed are some reasons people volunteer. For each reason indicate whether it is important to your household.

% indicates Percentage of Total Survey Respondents - 4458

	#	% Important
Group/Team effort	2,216	50%
Commitment to a cause	2,866	64%
Feel useful	2,225	50%
Give back to community	2,810	63%
Opportunity to learn	2,132	48%
Meet new people	1,997	45%
Network	925	21%
Use skills/knowledge	2,263	51%

Do any of the following keep anyone in your household from volunteering?

% indicates Percentage of Total Survey Respondents - 4458

	#	% Important
Care for family member	757	17%
Need transportation	246	6%
Language barrier	58	1%
Nothing to offer	206	5%
Meeting place not accessible	143	3%
Did not feel welcomed	154	3%
Too busy/no time	2,264	51%

If you were to consider volunteering, which of the following meeting times work best for you?

% indicates Percentage of Total Survey Respondents - 4458

	#	% Volunteer Time
Weekday day-time	621	14%
Weekday evening	1,091	24%
Weekend	1,283	29%

If you were to consider volunteering, which time commitment works best for you?

	#	% Volunteer Time
One day	1,098	25%
Few days or weeks	842	19%
Weeks to months	440	10%
Long-term	401	9%

Vision 2020 Annual Survey Results for 2013

Town Goals

Arlington adopted nine Town Goals in the 1990's. We would like to know how residents currently view these goals.

Are you aware of these goals?

	Count	% Goals
Yes - aware	822	28%
No - not aware	2,072	72%
Total	2,894	100%

Vision 2020 Goals Support

	Strongly Support	Support	Do Not Support	(blank)
Community and Citizen Service – supporting community vitality, people helping people	1,764	1,193	51	1,450
% Community	40%	27%	1%	33%
Diversity – extending a warm welcome and respect to all	1,869	1,074	81	1,434
% Diversity	42%	24%	2%	32%
Education – educating youth and supporting life-long learning	2,363	641	40	1,414
Education	53%	14%	1%	32%
The Environment - protecting and enhancing Arlington's natural resources and sustainability	2,208	785	53	1,412
% Environment	50%	18%	1%	32%
Culture and Recreation (Public Art) – offering opportunities to meet, play, and grow in Arlington	1,666	1,244	93	1,455
% Culture and Recreation	37%	28%	2%	33%
Communication – supporting open public dialogue and accountability	1,571	1,360	63	1,464
% Communication	35%	31%	1%	33%
Fiscal Resources – achieving sound fiscal planning through an open process	1,843	1,113	42	1,460
% Fiscal Resources	41%	25%	1%	33%
Governance – promoting effective, efficient services and exchange of ideas	1,655	1,295	52	1,456
% Governance	37%	29%	1%	33%
Business – supporting business diversity and attractive commercial centers	1,734	1,229	62	1,433
% Business	39%	28%	1%	32%