

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ARLINGTON REDEVELOPMENT BOARD

The Arlington Redevelopment Board (ARB) is the planning board for the Town and fulfills those functions envisioned by the State for local governments to assist in and regulate the development of the Town. The ARB is charged with planning for the orderly development of residences and businesses and the streets and infrastructure needed to serve them. This function takes on different appearances in different towns. In Arlington, the Redevelopment Board's planning responsibilities take the form of conducting planning studies, recommending zoning regulations (to Town Meeting) and issuing special permits.

Arlington's planning board differs from most in that it is also a redevelopment authority. Arlington was the first town in Massachusetts to create a combined planning board and redevelopment authority. As a redevelopment authority, the ARB is authorized to own property and to create urban renewal projects such as the Symmes Hospital site. The Board also owns and manages a number of Town buildings, which it leases.

The planning board's role in the town is to provide for the orderly development of property and anticipate needs and problems that development or population change or change in economic conditions may bring. The ARB carries out this responsibility by reviewing all significant development projects, commissioning studies, and marshalling grant funds for the development of public facilities to compliment other public development funded by the Town budget. It is the planning studies and the Zoning Bylaw that provide the guidance for how Arlington develops. The documents constitute a policy plan for the Town and instruct the ARB in its issuance of special permits. The Zoning Bylaw lists the uses for property that are allowed in Town and specifies where each use is allowed. Certain uses are allowed only by special permit and special permit uses that are of a certain size and location qualify for environmental design review before the Redevelopment Board.

The Department of Planning and Community Development serves as staff to the Redevelopment Board, operates the Town's community development program, oversees the home rehab and weatherization programs and manages the eight buildings under the jurisdiction of the Redevelopment Board.

Personnel Changes

Lynne Lowenstein moved out of Town in 2006 and therefore had to resign from the Board. A realtor, Lynne brought her knowledge of the real estate market on issues and projects before the Board. She frequently held the pulse of the community and helped the Board understand that perspective. She served on the Board since

2002 when she was appointed by the Mass. Department of Housing and Community Development.

In January, the State appointed Chris Loreti to take Lynne Lowenstein's place on the Board. Chris is an environmental scientist who has been active in Town affairs. The Board had only four members for several months until Bruce Fitzsimmons was appointed in June. Bruce has lived in Arlington for sixteen years with his wife and two children. He is an attorney in private practice in Arlington.

The Symmes Story

At the beginning of the year, we were finally able to arrange a meeting between the developer of the Symmes project and the neighbors who appealed the special permit issued by the Redevelopment Board. The Town did not participate in this or subsequent meetings concerning the appeal. The developer eventually offered to reduce the height of the buildings and the number of housing units that would be built and the appellants withdrew their appeal. The tallest buildings were reduced in height by thirty-three feet and the size of the project which had been 258 units was capped at 200 units. At the beginning of April, the Director of Planning and the Town Manager participated in the final meeting between the two parties where the settlement agreement was crafted.

The project could be made smaller only if the sales agreement was changed. The Town was asked to accept less money for the property. The delay, due to the appeal, had already cost the Town about \$250,000 and now it was asked to sell the land for \$1.3 million less and accept a project that would be reduced in size by twenty percent which would reduce the tax revenue the Town would receive by about \$300,000 each year. The Town negotiated an agreement by which it would receive a surcharge upon each sale of a condominium in years to come to compensate for the loss.

Following the settlement, the developer reduced the size of the project and submitted plans to the Board for approval. The plans were then at the 50% stage of development. The Board found that the reduction in the development was within the scope of the permit and approved the 50% plans. The plans will also be reviewed at the 100% stage. The Board reviews the plans at this stage to see if there are any changes necessitated by design of the final details. The Board does not expect to see any significant changes.

The new agreement required the developer to submit final plans for the project for ARB approval within six months. The agreement said that after the plans were approved by the ARB, the developer would have ninety days to either close on the sale of the property or begin paying the carrying costs of the Town (the expenses the town incurs for property maintenance, insurance, etc., and for interest on debt). When the time came to sub-

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mit the 100% plans, the developer was not ready. The agreement was again amended to allow the developer more time, but that the time at which the developer would begin to pay the carrying costs would be fixed and was no longer dependent upon the submittal of the plans.

The developer was not ready to submit the 100% plans because it was discovered that the settlement agreement with the appellants contained an error in listing the maximum size of one of the buildings. The building in question was not one that was changed by the settlement agreement, but the agreement listed a size that was less than that shown on the plans. The appellants refused to acknowledge the error in writing, and the developer was eventually forced to redesign the building to reduce its size so that the plans would conform to the settlement agreement. This decision was not made until late in the year and as the year closed final plans were not yet submitted to the ARB. The obligation of the developer to begin paying carrying costs would come due on January, 2007.

Staffing

The Department was finally restored to full strength this year with the hiring of the Assistant Director of Planning. This has allowed the Department to pick up on tasks that have had to be postponed for the last three years. It also enabled the Department to begin its first major dialog with the residents of Arlington about planning effort in years.

Planning Dialog

The Redevelopment Board along with the Selectmen and the Town Manager asked that the Department look at issues regarding the future development of the Town. Some Community Development Block Grant funds were made available to help and the Department obtained a Smart Growth Technical Assistance grant from the State as well. Working with its consultants from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, the Department created a survey questionnaire to engage residents in a dialog about issues such as open space, affordable housing, traffic, parking, recreation space, and commercial development.

While it is not the only way that the Town can influence its development, the regulation of land use through the Zoning Bylaw is a major tool in this regard. The Zoning Bylaw had its last major revision in 1975 which was just after the Town reached its maximum population. Compared to 1970, Arlington has only 80% of the population it had then. It has only 45% of the students in school that it had in 1970. Yet we now have about 1,500 more housing units than we had in 1970 and have almost as many cars registered in Arlington as we have people (39,000 cars and 42,000 people). Who knows what the next 35 years will bring. Perhaps we should try to determine what we want it to bring.

Near the end of the year, the survey was used with several existing groups active in Town affairs to inspire a discussion with Department or Board personnel. The survey asks the respondents to confront the implications and costs associated with their preferences. The survey was to be made available to all residents on the Town web site in the beginning of 2007. The dialog is directed toward making recommendations for future policy pointed towards the 2008 Annual Town Meeting for any recommendations that may require Town Meeting action. An interim report will be made to the 2007 Town Meeting.

Massachusetts Avenue Corridor

The Department has been working for quite some time with the Department of Public Works and the Transportation Advisory Committee to solve various problems at various locations along Mass. Ave. Collectively it was decided that the corridor from Cambridge to the High School should be looked at in a comprehensive manner rather than treating each problem piecemeal. We therefore began the lengthy process of getting the project on the State Transportation Improvement Program and sought funding from State and Federal sources. Congressman Markey championed our cause and we were able to obtain \$1.6 million in federal funds to begin the project. In our interactions with Mass Highway, it was suggested that our unified project be split into three phases as different sections of the Avenue lent themselves to different State funding priorities. Accordingly it was determined that the first phase should be from Pond Lane near the Central Fire Station to the Cambridge line.

The design for the first phase of the project was included in the State Transportation Improvement Program, a necessary step for any state and federal financed project, in the summer and we issued a request for proposals from design engineers in October. In December we received three proposals and a choice of designer will be made in early 2007. The project will involve public meetings to discuss alternative traffic regulation and will reconstruct the roadway to conform to a plan that evolves from the public process. The Lake Street business district will get a thorough redesign similar to that which was done in the Heights several years ago. The project has been a long time coming and additional funds must be secured to complete it, but it is now officially a project and design is underway.

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ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

In 2006, the Zoning Board of Appeals has heard and rendered decisions on thirteen petitions as prescribed in Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40A, The Zoning Act, and, also, further clarified by the Town's Zoning By-law. The Zoning Board of Appeals also granted the first Comprehensive Permit under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40B and 760 CMR 30-31 (Comprehensive Permit Rules).

Petitions Heard by Zoning Board of Appeals				
	Granted	Denied	Withdrawn	In Process
Petitions for Variance	5			
Applications for Special Permits	7		1	
Appeal of Decisions of Inspector of Buildings				
Totals	12	0	1	0
Total Petitions filed with Town Clerk: 13				

The petitions heard by the Board include variances, special permits and appeals of zoning decisions rendered by the Inspector of Buildings as well as interpretations of Zoning Bylaws.

The Zoning Board of Appeals has three members appointed by the Board of Selectmen who also appoint two associate members to attend hearings when a member, or members, cannot sit for a particular hearing. All hearings are open to the public and are usually held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month and are held in the Selectmen's Hearing Room on the second floor of the Town Hall or 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 before the hearing date. Hearings are also posted on the Town website. 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.

ARLINGTON HOUSING AUTHORITY

The need to provide more affordable housing continues to be a significant challenge for the Town of Arlington. The Arlington Housing Authority is proud of its distinction of being the largest single provider of affordable housing in the community.

This year marks the Arlington Housing Authority's fifty-eighth year offering affordable housing to low and

moderate income persons either through direct housing in government-owned developments or subsidized housing in privately owned dwellings.

The Arlington Housing Authority manages 1,156 housing units including: 520 units for elderly and/or residents with disabilities, 176 units designated for family housing, a home for 13 mentally challenged residents, and 447 vouchers that help participants live in privately-owned dwellings throughout the community.

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



Arlington Housing Authority 2006-2007: L-R Brian J. Connor, Andra Bourque, Teresa J. Walsh, Chairman Richard B. Murray (sitting) Brian R. Greeley, and Nicholas Mitropoulos

Board of Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners of the Authority is the policy making body of the agency. In 2006, the Board saw several changes in its composition. Longtime Commissioner John Griffin resigned mid-term and Dr. Worden's years of service as the State Appointee ended in October. Additionally, Ms. Joan Pippin, the Tenant Representative for the Section 8 Program and Ms. Merceita Johnson the Alternate Member, completed their terms of office.

Brian Greeley was selected by an Appointing Authority comprised by the remaining members of the AHA Board together with the five members of the Arlington Board of Selectmen to fill Mr. Griffin's seat until the April 2007 Town Elections. Brian J. Connor was selected as the new State Appointee to the Board and will serve for the next five years. The new representative for the Section 8 Program is Elaine Slavin and the alternate representative is Andra Bourque.

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Year in Review

The Arlington Housing Authority continued its focus on making improvements to its properties, providing tenant services and helping to meet the Town's need for affordable housing.

Properties

Security

The final phase of the recent building security initiative in the high-rise developments was completed. This project included the installation of cameras in four locations, each connected to digital recorders with remote internet access to each system, the installation of electronic FOB access devices to control authorized access to the buildings, and the installation of door lock protector devices in the doors of each apartment. This program was met with strong tenant support and additions to these systems will be ongoing. The Authority is currently studying installation of similar equipment in its Menotomy Manor family housing developments.

Modernization

In 2004, a major kitchen and bathroom modernization project, which will include several new handicap accessible units, was awarded for Menotomy Manor by the Department of Housing and Community Development. The Authority, together with its architectural firm ABA-CUS, has been working to prepare the needed review for the development of bid specifications for this needed project. To date, zoning issues and cost factors are the next areas that need to be addressed. In 2006, the estimated cost of the project has increased from \$6,976,440 to over \$11 million due to increases in costs of construction, materials, and added provisions.

Maintenance

In keeping up conditions of its properties, the AHA performed the following:

Donnelly Residence: Installed a new kitchen and made efficiency improvements to the heating system of this 13 unit group home.

Drake Village: Replaced all new hallway windows, installed 72 new carbon monoxide detectors, and replaced five new kitchens.

Hauser Building: Installed new carpets and lighting in the main lobby, installed new phones in the elevators, and installed new lighting and ceiling fans in the Community Room kitchen.

Chestnut Manor: Installed new ceiling and lighting fixtures in the Community Room and new carpeting in the lobby.

Cusack Terrace: Painted all common area walls and stairwells and installed new carpeting in the lobby. Carbon monoxide detectors were installed in the 67 units.

Menotomy Manor: Installed carbon monoxide

detectors in 176 units and the maintenance staff replaced or installed over 30 new sump pumps.

Tenant Services

Tenant Support

Sue Culhane, Tenant Service Coordinator, continued her active participation in the bi-monthly meetings of the Geriatric Providers Group. This group, consisting of representatives from over twenty outside agencies, meets regularly to ensure communication between these agencies and providers for the benefit of our elderly tenants.

Janet Doyle, AHA Office Manager, continued her work on the Youth Watch program through monthly meetings with members of various agencies in the community to monitor the activities of troubled youths. The group cooperatively works on ways to help provide assistance to local at-risk juveniles.

The Authority worked cooperatively with the volunteer teachers from the Ottoson Middle School in supporting the highly successful Operation Success program. The program offers onsite tutorial and homework assistance, and computer training to the middle school students of Menotomy Manor in the evenings throughout the school year.

Annual Cookouts

The annual cookouts for elderly and disabled residents were held in each of our four elderly/handicap developments. This year's theme, A Salute to Boston Sports Teams, was a complete success. Tenants proudly displayed their pride for their favorite local sports teams with hats, t-shirts, and other sport memorabilia. The Authority commends the combined efforts of the Maintenance and Administration staff for putting on such a popular program.

The AHA salutes the following 2006 Tenant of the Year award recipients: Shirley Graham (Drake Village), Helen Todisco (Chestnut Manor), Pauline Hickey (Winslow Towers), and Lee Carlsen (Cusack Terrace). Tenants balloted for the winners in their respective building and awards were presented at each cookout event.

The Authority was proud to support Minuteman Senior Services' request for funding to offer a new Supportive Housing Program for qualifying tenants residing in Drake Village. The request for funding was approved by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. In early 2007 tenants will be provided with additional daily meal offerings on weekends, and onsite and on-call support will be available once the program is up and running.

Affordable Housing

The Authority continues to deal with the problem of high fair market rents in Arlington. Items have been printed in our local newspaper as a means of outreach to residents letting them know about its programs.

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The Authority continues its participation in the Mass NAHRO Centralized Section 8 Wait List program.

Arlington residents are given a preference for all its programs. The AHA's website, www.arlingtonhousing.org, provides valuable information for those wishing to learn more about the AHA and its programs.

In its effort to address the affordable housing needs of special needs individuals, the AHA is in the process of making a joint application with the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) to request funding by the Department of Housing and Community Development in conjunction with the Department of Mental Retardation to build a small scale group home with a few individual units on the grounds of the Chestnut Manor development. The application, which requires considerable information and local support, will be submitted in early 2007.

Recognitions

Throughout the year, the AHA and its tenants have received support from a large number of individuals and organizations in the community. The Authority would like to thank the following:

Linda Montana, Graciella Correa, and all the student volunteers for their contributions to the English as a Second Language program. Janet McGuire, Peggy Regan, and all the teacher volunteers for their generous time devoted to Operation Success. Town Police, Fire, and Public Health Services for their continued support of our tenants.

The AHA would also like to recognize two stu-



Miss Massachusetts Teen, Alex Linder, and her neighborhood team which decorated Menotomy Manor during the 2006 Holiday Season.

dents who reside in Menotomy Manor for their recent successes in 2006. First, congratulations to Leonid S. Vasershteyn, who was awarded a Mass NAHRO Past Presidents Memorial Scholarship, and plans to continue his education with a concentration of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. Secondly, the AHA recognizes MAlex

Linder who was crowned Miss Massachusetts Teen. Ms. Linder represented the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in the national competition in December, and upon her return helped to organize fellow tenants in a project to decorate the entrances to Menotomy Manor in time for the Holiday Season.

The Authority would also like to congratulate our oldest tenant in residence, Ms. Catherine "Kitty" Junas, who is 104 years young, and recognize George Mead for his 25 years of service to the Authority.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING TASK FORCE

The Affordable Housing Task Force (AHTF) was established by unanimous vote of Town Meeting on May 3, 1999. The purpose was to quantify the need for affordable housing in Arlington, and find solutions that work. An important part of the Task Force's work is to help the Town move closer to fulfilling the statewide goal that 10% of the units in all municipalities be affordable to low and moderate income households. During this past year, the Task Force worked on the following initiatives.

Inclusionary Zoning Changes

The Task Force is proposing changes to the Affordable Housing section of the Zoning Bylaw that will change the way prices are set for affordable condos and rents set for affordable rental units, such that the units will be affordable to people with lower incomes. Currently all prices are set to be affordable to households at 80% of median income (\$59,550 for a family of 3). The amendment, if successful, will change the pricing such that condos will be affordable to households at 70% of median income (\$52,106 for a family of 3) and rental units will be affordable to households at 60% of median income (\$44,663 for a family of 3). This amendment will appear on the Town Meeting Warrant for Spring 2007.

Affordable Housing at Symmes

With the redevelopment of the Symmes Hospital site Arlington will get its biggest addition of affordable housing in decades. The anticipated 200 units of new housing will include 30 affordable condos (15%), and an additional 10 "Middle Income" condos, (affordable to households at 81% to 120% of median income). The Task Force recommended to the Redevelopment Board that 5 affordable units and 5 middle income units be reserved for Town employees, to provide an incentive for Town employees to stay in Arlington. Many Town employees, such as teachers, firefighters, police, and librarians, cannot afford the price of housing in Arlington, leading to high employee turnover. Additionally, 16 affordable units and 5 middle income units will be reserved for Arlington residents.

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Additional Affordable Housing

During the past year, the Housing Corporation of Arlington purchased 18 units that were renovated and preserved as affordable rental housing for smaller households. Additionally, Arlington granted its first comprehensive permit, which will add four townhouse condominium units for moderate income families.

Other housing issues on the table include accessory apartments and using Town owned land or buildings for affordable housing, which the Task Force has already begun discussions.

FAIR HOUSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Fair Housing Advisory Committee is appointed by the Board of Selectmen to promote and implement fair housing for all Arlington residents, regardless of race, religion, national origin, family status, gender status, age, or disability. The Committee, through the Fair Housing Officer Laura Wiener, provides information and services regarding housing discrimination and other housing related issues to current and prospective residents, as well as real estate brokers, bankers, and landlords. The Committee strongly supports the affordable housing efforts of the Affordable Housing Task Force as a way to promote diversity in Arlington.

During the past year the Committee reviewed the Affirmative Fair Housing and Marketing Plan for the affordable condominiums planned for the former Symmes Hospital site. Emphasis was placed on reaching out to diverse organizations in and outside of Arlington, including families in Arlington's METCO program.

A second major effort has involved forming a regional body to work jointly on fair housing issues. Recent studies conclude that affordability is not the sole cause of segregation. While increasing access to affordable housing is important, more can, and should, be done to make Arlington and the region welcoming to minority households, both buyers and renters. Arlington has initiated discussions with Belmont, Lexington and Medford on ways to improve our accessibility.

The Committee continued its long-standing sponsorship of the Martin Luther King Observance. The Committee continues to work with the Affordable Housing Task Force and other committees in Town committed to increasing Arlington's diversity.

VISION 2020



Town Meeting created the Vision 2020 Standing Committee as an official committee of the Town in June of 1992 to "...ensure the long range planning process initiated by the Town in 1990, ...also, to create, implement, monitor, and review methods for open, town-wide public participation in the Vision 2020 process." This followed a two-year process under the direction of Town leadership that explored goals for the Town and ultimately created a task group structure to support those goals which Vision 2020 follows to this day.

Town Goals, or Articles of Our Common Purpose, were enacted as bylaw in 1993 for the areas of Business, Communication, Community and Citizen Service, Culture and Recreation, Diversity, Education, Environment, Fiscal Resources, and Governance. Since then three groups have formed under the Environment Task Group: the Spy Pond, Reservoir, and Sustainable Arlington Committees.

Vision 2020 attempts to bring the Town closer to the intent of these Town Goals by working in a partnership of townspeople, town committees, Town employees, and leaders through its standing committee and task groups. Often, these efforts are awareness pieces designed to inform, enhance, summarize, and create an appreciation of Arlington's resources. Others are short or long-term projects – planning sessions, forums, practices, research projects, publications, tours, celebrations, warrant articles, and surveys.

Vision 2020 appreciates all who contribute to this program, now almost 17 years old. Their skills and expertise, opinions, persistence, research, hours of data entry, flyer distribution, grant writing, note taking, web posting, physical labor, program creation, and creative ideas – all offered generously – have truly enabled Arlington's Vision 2020 to assist the Town for the present as well as in preparation for its future.

Notable Activities in 2006

- Created, tallied and analyzed 3,200 Arlington household responses (17 % of total households) to the 2006 Vision 2020 Annual Census Mailing Insert Survey with its principal focus on sustainability issues in Arlington: zoning, land use, noise, recycling energy use, and conservation; reported a summary of these responses to the 2006 Annual Town Meeting; and provided a detailed summary of the response data to the departments and committees affected; (abstracts of these responses

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can be found on the Town website and on the following pages of this report);

- The Census Insert also featured the chart How Your Arlington Tax Dollars Are Spent and now appears as a spreadsheet online where property owners can enter their parcels' assessed valuations and learn exactly how their taxes are used;
- Monitored wetland invasive growth at both Spy Pond and the Arlington Reservoir;
- Organized and conducted the second Spy Pond Trails effort, May 13, 2006, that involved about 30 volunteers on the rainiest day of 2006; including Appalachian Mountain Club trail experts leading volunteer crews in the construction of three more stone trails leading to the pond and completing the three trails started last May. Accomplished additional pruning and tree removal to create vistas of the pond from the path along Route 2, some removal of invasive plants, and significant removal of the poison ivy between the path and the pond;
- Secured grants and donations from area businesses and foundations, as well as discarded curbing from Arlington's DPW to accomplish the Spy Pond Trails work;
- With the help of Arlington High School students of The Workplace, identified and labeled those storm drains within the 748 acre Spy Pond Watershed in need of new Only Rain Down The Drain warning markers. These same students and many other volunteers distributed flyers to the entire Spy Pond Watershed on practices that affect weed growth and water quality in Spy Pond. They informed Spy Pond abutters on typical invasive plants;

- In a ceremony at Arlington High School, awarded certificates of appreciation to students of The Workplace;
- Sponsored a talk and video presentation by Arlington resident Carol Kowalski on the issues surrounding the community activism/reclamation project at Brookline's Lost Pond Sanctuary;
- Hosted a workshop, Weedwatcher Training, conducted by Arlington resident and Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation aquatic ecologist Anne Monnelly, on identifying invasive plants frequently found in local waterbodies;



Arlington Reservoir



Spy Pond

- Presented An Evening with Bill Reed, noted green architect and proponent of sustainability, on Securing the Health of Our Lakes and Ponds Using Living, Natural Systems Relationships;
- With the Arlington Schools' administration, participated in AARC, the Affirmative Action Recruitment Consortium of Eastern Massachusetts, which works to recruit and hire minority teachers and staff;
- Continued to provide participation on the Superintendent's Advisory Committee on Diversity; continued to advocate for minority hiring for the schools and all Town positions; working with Schools are a Priority in our Town (SPOT) and other Town entities on increasing the diversity of our schools' teachers and staff;
- With the libraries, schools, and other Arlington groups, expanded October Diversity Month to a year-long calendar of events to be cel-

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- celebrated at various Town sites which included the Town-wide Book Read of Tracy Kidder's *Mountains Beyond Mountains*;
- Participated in a survey of Arlington attitudes regarding diversity;
 - Co-sponsored a talk by author Michelle Deakon on her recent book *Gay Marriage, Real Life Ten Stories of Love and Family*;
 - Sponsored a presentation and discussion by AHS students, their teacher Marie Raduazzo, and Rev. Carleton Smith on the impact of their trip to three holocaust sites in Europe;
 - Worked with the Town to finish the Reservoir Dam Remediation Project which ensures dam safety without losing large numbers of trees or sacrificing swimming and aesthetics, still maintains recreational and habitat values, and satisfies the state's mandate to stabilize the earthen dam. With the help of Cathy Garnett, produced a Reservoir Area Landscape Plan which will include native species and replacement of the trees that were lost during construction at the Arlington Reservoir (Res) ;
 - Conducted a Fall Path Improvement/Cleanup Day at the Res;
 - With the help of The Workplace students, constructed a message board/kiosk at the Res;
 - With the Board of Selectmen, produced the Sixth Annual State of the Town Address and Reception on the opening night of the 2006 Annual Town Meeting;
 - Contributed to the construction of two boardwalks at Arlington's Great Meadows;
 - With the League of Women Voters of Arlington, the Office of the Town Clerk, and the Board of Selectmen, organized both Candidates Night in preparation for Town election, as well as the Warrant Review to ready Town Meeting Members and townspeople for the Annual Town Meeting;
 - Prepared two articles for the Annual Town Meeting: Article 15 was a resolution asking the Assessors to report broadly to the Town in a medium readily available to all, and also to Town Meeting, about assessment practices in Town as well as statistics and trend analyses as they pertain to property classes and/or neighborhoods - this passed unanimously;
 - Article 24 (introduced by an exhibit on Arlington's water bodies at Town Hall) asked the Town to authorize the Board of Selectmen to file Home Rule Legislation to establish a special fund for maintenance of all the Town's water bodies, to seed that fund in the sum of \$15,000, to have the ability to receive gifts and grants to the fund, and to have the Town Man-

- ager report to the Town regarding revenue into and expenditures as well as future needs each year - Town Meeting passed this article by a vote of 122-14; the Home Rule Legislation did not receive state legislative attention in 2006 but was refiled for action in 2007;
- Participated on the Arlington Fiscal Organization Study Committee;
 - Produced a Draft Comprehensive Sustainability Action Plan for the Town, available on the Sustainable Arlington website, presented it to the Board of Selectmen, and received their enthusiastic endorsement of its recommendations;
 - Explored options and opportunities for using wind power as an energy source in Arlington; produced a public forum based on a Sustainable Arlington-produced video of the Hull, MA municipal wind power installation;
 - Conducted bird walks at the Arlington Reservoir and Spy Pond, participated in Earth Day projects;
 - Increased participation in Vision 2020 task groups; created displays and interactive exhibits at Town Hall, Robbins Library, and for Vision 2020's booth at Town Day.

With sadness, Vision 2020 notes the death of long-time Diversity Task Group Representative Patricia Watson. Her wisdom and keen articulation of our diversity mission will be missed.

Other changes to Vision 2020's Standing Committee and Task Group Co-Chairs in 2006 saw Clarice Gordon appointed to serve as Diversity Task Group Representative, and Bruce Fitzsimmons replace Barry Faulkner as Arlington Redevelopment Board Representative. New Co-Chairs to the Culture and Recreation Task Group are John Budzyna, Director of the Arlington Center for the Arts and Joe Connelly, Director of Arlington's Recreation Department.

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VISION 2020 ANNUAL CENSUS SURVEY RESULTS

DEMOGRAPHICS

Table 1: Arlington precincts represented:

Precinct #	Count	Percentage of Surveys
1	98	3.1%
2	131	4.1%
3	103	3.2%
4	139	4.3%
5	110	3.4%
6	125	3.9%
7	93	2.9%
8	163	5.1%
9	107	3.3%
10	164	5.1%
11	148	4.6%
12	159	5.0%
13	125	3.9%
14	147	4.6%
15	141	4.4%
16	160	5.0%
17	106	3.3%
18	145	4.5%
19	136	4.2%
20	115	3.6%
21	146	4.6%
Blank	446	13.9%
Total	3207	

Table 2: Household Characteristics:

Household Characteristics:	Count	%
Adults aged 18-64 with no children	1267	39.5%
Adults aged 18-64 with children	855	26.7%
Adults aged 18-64 and Adults >64	228	7.1%
Adults aged 18-64, 65+ and with children	28	0.9%
Adults aged 65 years and older only	534	16.7%
Adults aged 65 years + with children	7	0.2%
Children only	20	0.6%
Blank information in survey	268	8.4%
Total	3207	100.0%

Table 3: Households with or without children?

With Children	
Adults aged 18-64 with children	855
Adults aged 18-64, 65+ and with children	28
Adults aged 65 years + with children	7
TOTAL households with Children (30.5%)	890
Without Children	
Adults aged 18-64 with no children	1267
Adults aged 18-64 and Adults >64 only	228
Adults aged 65 years and older only	534
TOTAL households without Children (69.5%)	2029

Table 4: Do you own or rent?

	Count	Percentage
Own	2312	72.1%
Rent	671	20.9%
Blank	224	7.0%
Total	3207	

Table 5: Which of the following best describes your housing?

	Count	Percentage
Single Family	1742	54.3%
2, 3, or 4 units	952	29.7%
5 or more units	283	8.8%
Blank	230	7.2%
Total	3207	

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SUSTAINABILITY: ZONING / LAND USE / NOISE

1. Please indicate whether you feel the Town should encourage or discourage each of the uses listed below:

1. Land Use	Strongly Discourage		Discourage		Leave as Is		Encourage		Strongly Encourage		No Opinion		Blank	Total	
a. New Single Family Housing	293	9.1%	287	8.9%	1099	34.3%	666	20.8%	385	12.0%	229	7.1%	248	7.7%	3207
b. New 2-4 Family Housing	393	12.3%	393	12.3%	900	28.1%	718	22.4%	320	10.0%	246	7.7%	237	7.4%	3207
c. New Multifamily Housing (5+ units)	765	23.9%	622	19.4%	740	23.1%	379	11.8%	217	6.8%	243	7.6%	241	7.5%	3207
d. Accessory or In-law Apartments	196	6.1%	243	7.6%	854	26.6%	843	26.3%	337	10.5%	471	14.7%	263	8.2%	3207
e. Business (office, retail, restaurants, etc.)	112	3.5%	105	3.3%	717	22.4%	1076	33.6%	787	24.5%	174	5.4%	236	7.4%	3207
f. Additional Open Space	57	1.8%	37	1.2%	519	16.2%	786	24.5%	1471	45.9%	155	4.8%	182	5.7%	3207
g. Preservation of Historic Structures (including residences)	62	1.9%	56	1.7%	506	15.8%	864	26.9%	1428	44.5%	142	4.4%	149	4.6%	3207

2. What is your opinion regarding the conversion of Arlington's business properties to residential uses?

	Count	Percentage
Oppose Strongly	381	11.9%
Oppose	692	21.6%
Neutral	1236	38.5%
Support	534	16.7%
Support Strongly	107	3.3%
Blank	257	8.0%
Total	3207	

3. Does the trend of building to greater density in Arlington result in excessive noise for the Town?

	Count	Percentage
Yes	1678	52.3%
No	1242	38.7%
Blank	287	8.9%
Total	3207	

4. Do you feel there is a problem with noise in your neighborhood?

	Count	Percentage
Yes	933	29.1%
No	2132	66.5%
Don't Know	62	1.9%
Blank	80	2.5%
Total	3207	

5. If so, from what source(s)?

	Count	Percentage
Traffic	764	81.9%
Construction	227	24.3%
Home & Lawn Maintenance	348	37.3%
Other (Specify)	316	33.9%

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

SUSTAINABILITY: RECYCLING / SOLID WASTE

1. Did you know that the Town has a mandatory curbside recycling by-law?

Yes	2273	70.9%
No	883	27.5%
Blank	51	1.6%
Total	3207	

2. Do you currently recycle?

Yes	3067	95.6%
No	100	3.1%
Blank	40	1.2%
Total	3207	

3. Which of the following do you recycle through the Town's program (check all that apply)?

Newspapers	2922	95.3%
Phone books and magazines	2877	93.8%
Glass bottles/plastic bottles/cans	2946	96.1%
Junk mail/scrap paper/shredded paper	2521	82.2%
Packaging/cardboard	2620	85.4%

4. If you do not recycle, why not (check all that apply)? (Percentage is of those that said No to Q2)

No blue recycling bin	64	64.0%
Too much trouble	40	40.0%
Pick-up too infrequent	64	64.0%
Suspicion that materials are not actually recycled	42	42.0%
Building / Landlord does not provide access to recycling at my residence	40	40.0%
Other (specify)	55	55.0%

5. If you recycle glass, plastic bottles and cans, on average about how many containers (blue bins/other) containing these items do you put out on each recycling pick-up day? (Percentage is of those that said Yes to Glass/Plastic Bottles in Q3)

One	1638	55.6%
Two	863	29.3%
Three or more	410	13.9%
Said Yes to Q3-Glass/Plastic bottles, but left this question blank	35	1.2%

6. If you recycle paper (newspaper, phone books, magazines, junk mail, scrap paper, shredded paper, packaging, cardboard) on average about how many containers (blue bins/paper bags/etc) containing these items do you put out on each recycling pick-up day? (Percentage is of those that responded Yes to Newspaper, since that is the largest response category in Q3)

One-Two	1900	65.0%
Three-Four	773	26.5%
Five or more	256	8.8%

7. Would you say that the amount you put out for recycling pickup every other week is MORE or LESS than the amount you put out for trash pickup on recycling days?

More recycling than trash	1122	35.0%
Less recycling than trash	890	27.8%
About the same	938	29.2%
Don't Know	89	2.8%
Blank	168	5.2%
Total	3207	

8. Which of the following do you currently compost (check all that apply)?

Kitchen Waste	489
Yard Waste	715
Don't Compost	2220
Question left blank	173

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

SUSTAINABILITY: ENERGY USE / CONSERVATION

1. Do you get any energy from a renewable energy device or from renewable energy credits from Mass Energy or other service

Solar	32
Wind	12
Water	9
Wood or pellet	66
None	2919

- 2 Did you recently install any additional insulation, weather stripping, etc (check all that apply)?

Yes, this year	644
Yes, in previous years	1073
Planning to do so soon	210
No	1430
Question left blank	115

3. Do you reduce heat at night or when no one is at home?

Yes, using an automatic set-back thermostat or my landlord does it for me	1197	37.3%
Yes, I do it manually	1607	50.1%
No, I keep the heat constant	294	9.2%
No, I am unable to control the heat in my home (landlord or other controls)	55	1.7%
Blank	54	1.7%

4. Do you use compact fluorescent light bulbs in lamps at home? If so how many?

None	1119	34.9%
One	377	11.8%
More than one	1593	49.7%
Blank	118	3.7%
Total	3207	

5. Do you try to save water using any device (such as reduced flow showerheads or toilet-tank dams) or by re-using rainwater, or watering the garden with water used for washing vegetables?

Flow restriction devices	1449
Re-use of clean or rain water	307
No	1496
Question left blank	116

6. Do you re-use "single-use" items (lunch bags, grocery bags, plastic containers, etc.) when feasible?

Frequently	2383	74.3%
Occasionally	707	22.0%
Never	71	2.2%
Blank	46	1.4%
Total	3207	

7. Would you participate in a town-wide initiative to achieve Kyoto-like guidelines for the reduction of heat trapping gas emissions at a community level that would help prevent global warming?

Yes	1302	40.6%
No	283	8.8%
Need more information	1434	44.7%
Yes & Need more information checked	50	1.6%
No & Need more information checked	12	0.4%
Blank	126	3.9%
Total	3207	

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

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

Open Space Plan: The committee's main responsibility is to prepare the Town's official Open Space and Recreation Plan every five years, and to constantly monitor and document its provisions and goals. The current plan, for 2002–2007, was approved in April 2003 by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) Division of Conservation Services. Copies are available in the Robbins Library, Planning Department, Town Clerk's office, and other Town offices. The entire plan, including numerous maps and photographs, is available on the Town Web site at: arlingtonma.gov/Public_Documents/ArlingtonMA_BComm/OpenSpace_Folder/OpenSpacePlan.

In anticipation of needing to update the plan during 2006 and 2007, the committee submitted an application for Community Development Block Grant funds of \$15,000 to hire consultants to help with preparation of the new plan for 2007–2012. Town Meeting in the Spring of 2006 approved the request, and later in the year OSC prepared a Request for Proposals. Nine proposals were received, and in November the committee selected Ralph Willmer of VHB in Watertown to spearhead the public participation process and to help the committee prepare the final report to the Town and the state. Willmer is an Arlington resident who has extensive experience as a planner, and in particular has worked with the state and many other communities on open space planning.

Another element that will contribute to assessing resident concerns about open space and recreation issues is the Vision 2020 survey that accompanies the annual Town census mailing. The January 2007 survey was developed during the summer and fall of 2006 in conjunction with the Open Space Committee, in order to incorporate questions that will help the committee gather community input for future open space goals and objectives.

Site Management Plans

The committee completed work on site management plans for 12 major open space and recreation sites, as outlined in the Open Space Plan, they include: Arlington Reservoir, Minuteman Bikeway, Arlington's Great Meadows, Robbins Farm Park, Spy Pond Park and the Route 2 Path next to Spy Pond, Menotomy Rocks Park, Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, Meadowbrook Park, McClennen Park, and the Town Hall Gardens and Old Burying Ground. Committee members prepared these management plans in collaboration with representatives of various Town departments and commissions and volunteer groups that manage or monitor each site. A standardized template permits each site to be documented in a consistent manner. The template includes such information as the site location, size, boundaries, history, ownership, management entities, Friends groups, natural resources, basic maintenance and capital improvement needs, and financial considerations. The plans provide a record of current practices and also serve to facilitate communication among the interested parties. The plans will be incorporated into the 2007–2012 Open Space Plan and will be available for regular updating by the relevant Town departments.

Other Activities

The OSC participated in Town Day in September 2006, displaying maps of local open spaces, information about the Open Space Plan, flyers about the Conservation Commission's Land Stewards Program, and a sign-up sheet for residents interested in getting more involved. The OSC continued to monitor a wide range of open space concerns that affect the Town and its residents' quality of life. Some of the issues that came before the committee for discussion during the year were a proposal for affordable housing on Town-owned land on Pond Lane, a meeting with representatives of many parks and playgrounds concerning management policies and maintenance issues, ongoing discussion about the pros and cons of a dog park and policies for off-leash times and locations, efforts to enhance the landscape and access to Window on the Mystic, a Conservation Commission property along Upper Mystic Lake, and Arlington's participation in the Heritage Landscapes and Freedom's Way initiative of the state Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Goals for 2007

During 2007, the Committee will focus most of its work on updating the Open Space Plan and working with the Planning Department on its Smart Growth Technical Assistance grant to develop a long-term planning and development vision for the Town. The Committee will continue to collaborate with

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

other Town entities and community groups to advocate for the proper maintenance and management of the Town's valuable open space and recreation resources. In particular, the committee will provide input into the planning and implementation of the Symmes redevelopment plan and the conservation restriction (CR) that will provide permanent protection for the open space portions of the site. Other areas of attention continue to be Elizabeth Island and the Mugar land, both significant privately owned natural resources that are priorities for acquisition for conservation purposes.

ARLINGTON BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Background

The Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee (ABAC) was appointed by the Board of Selectmen in 1996 to advise the Town on improving local bicycling conditions for both residents and visitors. The all-volunteer Committee promotes all forms of safe bicycling in town -- from recreational riding on the Minuteman Bikeway to using the bicycle for transportation and errands on town roadways. ABAC's annual events include the ABAC Winter Social in February, the BIKE-Arlington Tour in May, and ABAC's Bicycling Information booth at Arlington Town Day in September. ABAC meets monthly to discuss bicycle-related topics and issues in town. Meetings are posted in advance and open to the public. ABAC's website address is www.abac.arlington.ma.us.

Recent Highlights

In the past year, ABAC has organized a number of annual events and worked on a wide range of projects and initiatives:

- Hosted the well-attended ABAC Winter Social at the Whittemore-Robbins House in February, featuring an informative presentation by cyclist and cartographer Andy Rubel on his local bicycle maps.
- Organized the 9th annual BIKE-Arlington Tour, a casual-paced bicycle tour around town in May, which concluded with a reception at the Old Schwamb Mill in Arlington Heights.
- Hosted a Bicycling Information booth at Arlington Town Day, where ABAC members distributed bicycle-related information and discussed local bicycling issues with the community.
- Hosted instructional bicycling skills classes in Arlington to promote safer, more efficient bicycling in the area.

- Continued to discuss and plan various improvements to Massachusetts Avenue in Arlington that would benefit both pedestrians and bicyclists, related to the proposed street redesign project.
- Advised the town on traffic/safety issues at bikeway intersections in Arlington, specifically Arlington Center, Lake Street, and Mill Street, at the request of the Board of Selectmen. This report is available on ABAC's website.
- Worked with the Department of Public Works to provide basic maintenance on Arlington's 3-mile stretch of the Minuteman Bikeway, including organizing a bikeway cleanup day in early May. For more information on the Minuteman Bikeway, see the website at www.minutemanbikeway.org.
- Advised the Town on signage guidelines for the Minuteman Bikeway corridor.
- Participated in meetings on the Alewife Brook Greenway path, a local project proposed by the state's Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR).
- Participated in various events hosted by the Massachusetts Bicycle Coalition (Mass-Bike), including Massachusetts Bike Week and Bike Night.
- Represented Arlington at the annual National Bicycle Summit in Washington, D.C., organized by the League of American Bicyclists in March. Met with U.S. Representative Edward Markey to encourage support for federal Transportation Enhancements funding for local-area bicycling, pedestrian, and transit improvements.

Future Plans

ABAC is planning to organize a number of community events in 2007, including the ABAC Winter Social, the BIKE-Arlington Tour (May 20), bicycling skills classes hosted in Arlington, and an informational booth at Arlington Town Day in September. ABAC is currently working to install a number of new bicycle-parking racks in Arlington's commercial districts, funded by a grant from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC). In addition, ABAC continues to work on many items listed in the previous section of this report.

If you are interested in local bicycling matters, please attend an upcoming ABAC meeting. For more information, visit our website at www.abac.arlington.ma.us, contact the Department of Planning and Community Development at 781-316-3090, or e-mail jackjohnson@alum.bu.edu. ABAC usually meets on the first Monday night of the month in Town Hall.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The TAC was established by the Board of Selectmen in the spring of 2001 to advise the Selectmen on transportation matters for the Town.

The goal of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) is to improve the quality of life in Arlington by improving the safety for all modes of transportation while balancing safety with mobility, equity, the environment, and public health. In this effort, the TAC, Arlington Police Department's Traffic Division, the Department of Public Works (DPW), and the Planning Department work closely together. Major activities of the TAC in 2006 included the following:

Mass Ave Corridor

Our activities on this project since 2002, in concert with the Town officials and Congressman Markey, are paying off. In the fall, the State Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) approved funding for design engineering and a request for design proposals by the Town was sent out in November. Four bids were received in December and were under review at year's end. The design will be for Phase 1 of the project, which is for Mass Ave from the Cambridge line to Pond Lane. In the next year, community meetings will be held as the design team considers ways to improve the traffic flow, pedestrian environment and streetscape. Next steps for the Town will include obtaining MPO approval for construction funding for Phase 1 and Mass Highway Department approval of Phase 2 of the project (from Pond Lane to Mill St.).

Schools

Following a successful collaboration with the Dallin School in 2005, the TAC, Arlington Police Department and DPW worked with the Hardy School to improve the safety of student travel to and from school in 2006. It was decided jointly to follow this effective pilot program with similar activities for the remaining elementary schools, with the school administration to initiate the effort.

Parking

In response to residents' concerns, two studies were conducted to determine if one-sided parking or time-controlled parking would lead to potential improvements. One study was conducted with the assistance of engineering students from Tufts and examined a large section of east Arlington south of Mass Ave. A second study was conducted of selected streets to the east of Arlington Center. From these studies, formal procedures for public safety officials and abutters to follow were recommended to and voted by the Selectmen.

Car Sharing

The TAC worked with the Town Planning Department and ZipCar to introduce car sharing to Arlington in 2006. We encourage everyone to consider taking advantage of this.

Downing Square

This six-way intersection of Park Ave, Lowell St, Park Ave Extension, Bow St and Westminster Ave is a very difficult intersection. Based upon the results of an experiment conducted in 2005 and following surveys, the TAC has asked DPW engineering to assist in developing a detailed design for evaluation. We hope resources will be available to accomplish this detailed design in the spring of 2007.

Neighborhood Projects

The TAC responded to requests from Arlington residents for transportation improvements ranging from simple situations to major safety issues. Examples include: lane markings at Mass Ave./Highland Ave./Lockeland, stop sign relocation and lane markings at Appleton St. / Paul Revere Rd., and pedestrian improvements at Endicott Rd./Gray St.. among many others.

Outreach

The TAC participated in transportation meetings and events conducted by the Boston Area MPO, MBTA, Arlington Schools and School Committee, Massachusetts Dept. of Conservation and Recreation, and the Summer Street Neighborhood Association. The Mass. Ave Corridor project and ZipCar were featured at the TAC's 2006 Town Day booth. The TAC maintains a website <http://tac.Arlington.ma.us> containing the formal reports submitted to the Board of Selectmen, and other transportation resources for Town residents.

The TAC continues to be very concerned by the limited Police resources for traffic enforcement. The staff for the Traffic Division was drastically reduced for fiscal year 2004 because of budget issues, and has not been replaced three years later. Traffic enforcement is a very important part of maintaining the quality of life in Arlington. We need drivers to approach Arlington with the thought, "I'll be careful because I could be ticketed here." It takes sustained enforcement to attain this position, and the benefits are increased public safety and quality of life. We were on this path before 2004, but very far from it now.

METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING COUNCIL

Created in 1963, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) promotes inter-local cooperation and advocates for smart growth by working closely with cities and towns, state and federal agencies, non-profit institutions, and community-based organizations in the 101 cities and towns of Metropolitan Boston. MAPC strives to provide leadership on emerging issues of regional significance by conducting research, building coalitions, and acting as a regional forum for action.

MAPC provides technical assistance and specialized services in land use planning, water resources management, transportation, housing, environmental protection, economic development, public safety, geographic information systems (GIS), collective purchasing, data analysis and research, legislative and regulatory policy, and the facilitation and support of inter-local partnerships. More information about MAPC's services and ongoing activities is available at www.mapc.org.

MAPC is governed by 101 municipal government appointees, 21 gubernatorial appointees, and 13 appointees of State and City of Boston agencies. An Executive Committee, comprising 25 elected members, oversees agency operations. The agency employs approximately 40 professional staff under the leadership of an executive director. Funding for MAPC activities is derived from governmental contracts and foundation grants, and a per-capita assessment on member municipalities.

To better serve the people who live and work in Metro Boston, MAPC has divided the region into eight subregions. Each subregion is overseen by a council of local leaders and stakeholders, and a staff coordinator provides organizational and technical staff support.

Smart Growth Across Municipal Boundaries

MAPC's MetroFuture: Making a Greater Boston Region initiative is planning for Metro Boston's growth and development through 2030. In 2006, the project involved nearly 2000 people. At more than 50 briefings, participants analyzed Scenario 1: Current Trends to 2030, MetroFuture's 'base case' of what the region might look like if current trends continue. We also hosted two working sessions in June 2006, where participants designed alternatives to the base case, and two in December 2006, where participants chose the scenario they liked the best. In 2007, after additional public input and a May 1, 2007 Boston College Citizens Seminar, the project will complete a regional strategy to achieve the preferred scenario.

MAPC assisted cities and towns in a variety of ways throughout 2006. The agency helped over 70 cities and town to rewrite zoning bylaws, evaluate smart growth uses for key parcels, keep traffic under control and expand transit, deal with crime, and prepare for

natural disasters.

As a member of the Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance, MAPC worked with six allied organizations to advocate for sustainable development throughout the Commonwealth. MAPC participated in a successful Alliance campaign to recapitalize and reform the state's Brownfields Tax Credit; researched, analyzed, and reacted to significant state land use and transportation policy proposals, including Governor Romney's 20-year transportation plan; and advanced research about the impact of sprawling development in Massachusetts.

In partnership with the 495/MetroWest Corridor Partnership, MAPC produced the Massachusetts Low Impact Development Tool Kit, which presents state-of-the-art practices for managing stormwater and increasing the recharge of water to aquifers. MAPC also produced *Once is Not Enough: A Guide to Water Reuse in Massachusetts*, a manual that describes techniques for non-potable reuse of treated wastewater and provides case studies of several successful water reuse projects in Massachusetts. In partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey, MAPC began work on a hydrologic modeling project that simulates the impacts of future development on the water resources of the Charles River and Assabet River watersheds.

Getting Around the Region

In March 2006, MAPC sponsored a conference on the impact of transportation emissions on public health. The workshop began a process to build connections, raise awareness, and stimulate action around the issue of air pollution adjacent to major roadways and rail corridors. The content and results of this workshop are available at www.mapc.org/air_quality.

MAPC developed a Regional Bicycle Plan in 2006 to assess current conditions and to guide future improvements to bicycle transportation in the region. The plan reviews goals set in previous plans, and proposes six general goals and strategies for the region, including encouraging more trips by bicycle in each community, working with state and federal agencies to simplify and coordinate funding programs, and increasing regional knowledge about bicycling. The plan can be found at www.mapc.org/transportation/transportation_alternatives.html.

A consistent complaint of bicyclists is the lack of parking. To address this need, MAPC worked with the MPO and EOT to develop the Regional Bike Parking Program. Under this program, MAPC negotiated discount group purchasing contracts with three leading vendors of bicycle parking equipment, funded through federal transportation funds. More information about MAPC's bicycle and pedestrian planning activities, and the bike parking program, is available at www.mapc.org/transportation/transportation_alternatives.html.

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Collaboration to Address Shared Municipal Challenges

MAPC, through its Metro Mayors Coalition, played a leading role in developing legislation to create a state-wide anti-gang initiative known as the Senator Charles E. Shannon Jr. Community Safety Initiative, which supports regional and multi-disciplinary gang and youth violence prevention and law enforcement efforts. MAPC coordinated Shannon grants totaling \$1.2 million for 10 Metro Boston communities and 7 Essex County communities. These communities used the funds to enhance public safety through targeted workforce development, after-school mentoring, re-entry initiatives, gang-prevention education, and collaborative community policing.

MAPC facilitated the work of the Municipal Health Insurance Working Group, which drafted and proposed landmark legislation to let cities and towns purchase their health insurance through the Group Insurance Commission.

Collaboration for Safety

MAPC carries out fiduciary, planning, and project management duties for the Northeast Homeland Security Regional Advisory Council (NERAC), a network of 85 cities and towns north and west of Boston. In 2006, NERAC distributed more than \$1.5 million in emergency equipment and supplies to member communities, and trained hundreds of first responders in various roles in the United States Department of Homeland Security incident command system.

In 2006, MAPC advanced Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) plans for cities and towns throughout the region. These plans are designed to help communities reduce their vulnerability to damages due to natural hazards. The plans include an inventory of critical facilities and infrastructure in each community, a vulnerability analysis, and a mitigation strategy with specific recommended actions and projects that will protect the communities from future damages.

Collaboration for Savings

MAPC's Consortiums Project administered 37 procurement contracts for 42 municipal clients in 2006, saving cities and towns up to 20% on the purchases. As the administrator of the more than 300-member Greater Boston Police Council (GBPC), MAPC concluded 7 procurement contracts for public safety, public works and general use vehicles. In all, 142 municipalities purchased 180 vehicles. MAPC staff also collaborated on procurements that advanced MAPC's environmental and transportation objectives, helping communities to buy bicycle racks, hybrid vehicles, and water leak detection services at a favorable cost.

Charting a Course to Regionwide Prosperity

MAPC developed its annual Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), an assessment of current regional economic trends and conditions. The report includes background about trends and conditions in the regional economy, including a discussion about the relationship between the economy and factors such as geography, population, labor force, resources, and the environment. MAPC's 2006 CEDS report can be downloaded at www.mapc.org/economic_development/comprehensive_economic.html.

Tools to Improve Planning and Decision-Making

MAPC's Metro Data Center partnered with The Boston Foundation to develop the MetroBoston DataCommon, a new online data and mapping tool for residents and leaders in the region. The resource, which helps individuals to create customized maps and charts, is available at www.MetroBostonDataCommon.org. The Data Center partnered with MAPC's Legislative Committee to advocate for the establishment of a statewide population estimates program at the University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute. The program, funded at \$100,000 in the FY2007 budget, lays the foundation for the Commonwealth to analyze Census estimates in a more robust way.

MAPC's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Lab provides professional services and products and technical assistance in support of local and regional planning projects. In 2006, MAPC's GIS team completed extensive projects for the Northeast Homeland Security Regional Advisory Council (NERAC) region, and maps associated with the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program, both of which are described above. The GIS Lab also made major contributions to the MetroBoston DataCommon and the MetroFuture planning project. The Lab also began mapping areas suitable for economic development throughout the region, in accordance with smart growth principles.

In 2006, MAPC transitioned from a paper to an electronic newsletter, the Regional Record, which is distributed quarterly and provides updates on the latest regional projects and thinking, and provides opportunities for residents and communities to get involved in various events. People interested in receiving the e-newsletter can send their email addresses to contactinfo@mapc.org.

On Beacon Hill: 2005 – 2006 Legislative Session

- **Brownfields Redevelopment:** The Legislature recapitalized the Brownfields Redevelopment Fund with \$30 million and extended and enhanced the Brownfields Tax Credit so that non-profit development projects can raise equity by selling the credit to taxable entities.

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- **Expedited Permitting:** The Legislature passed a law to expedite permitting of commercial/industrial developments in “priority development sites” designated by cities and towns. In part as a result of MAPC’s advocacy, the new law includes funding for technical assistance to municipalities, development of a statewide expedited permitting model, and criteria to steer priority development sites toward smart growth locations.
- **GIS Data Layer:** MAPC successfully advocated for \$400,000 in the FY2007 budget to update and improve the quality of Mass GIS data linking aerial photographs to land uses on the ground.
- **Statewide Population Estimates Program:** MAPC led the advocacy effort to establish a statewide population estimates program at the University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute. The program was funded at \$100,000 in the FY2007 budget.
- **Shannon Community Safety Initiative:** The Legislature created a new \$11 million grant program to encourage the creation of regional, multi-disciplinary initiatives to combat gang violence, youth violence, and substance abuse.
- **Sewer Rate Relief:** The Legislature included \$25 million in the FY2007 budget for water and sewer rate relief, which will help lower costs for residential consumers and businesses served by sewer districts, including the MWRA.
- **Surplus Land:** Both the House and Senate passed legislation to reform the state’s surplus land disposition policy. Both bills included an assignable municipal right of first refusal to purchase the parcel at a discount; a professional smart growth review for larger parcels; a Surplus Land Coordinating Council to oversee disposition; and a municipal share of 10%-25% of proceeds in instances where the municipal right of first refusal is not exercised. Unfortunately, the Conference Committee did not advance the bill to final passage, but significant progress was made setting the foundation for the 2007-08 legislative session.

Two major development issues were also highlighted this year; mixed-use zoning and Chapter 40R. MAPC presented an overview of the mixed-use zoning toolkit that is available on the website. Based on member interest, the November meeting was a panel discussion of Chapter 40R that brought together consultants and communities to share their experiences with 40R.

The two key environmental issues that were addressed were peak season water demand management and the natural hazard mitigation planning grant. Seven

NSPC communities chose to participate in the regional grant to develop natural hazard mitigation plans. This planning effort got underway in July.

Inner Core Committee (Arlington, Belmont, Boston, Braintree, Brookline, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Holbrook, Lynn, Malden, Medford, Melrose, Milton, Nahant, Newton, Quincy, Randolph, Revere, Saugus, Somerville, Waltham, Watertown, Winthrop)

The Inner Core Committee (ICC) held 8 regular meetings in 2006. At the meeting, communities share what is happening in their community and stay up-to-date, plus provide input on MAPC initiatives including MetroFuture and legislative issues,

Guest speakers in 2006 included:

- Wendy Landman of WalkBoston discussed coping with school traffic and encouraging walking.
- Ken Buckland, Principal at the Cecil Group and Ted Tye, Managing Partner at National Development discussed tools and techniques to build public support for transit oriented development projects.
- Stephen Greeley, President DCA, Inc., discussed how to use the arts to stimulate local economic development.

The ICC elected Lisa Lepore (Somerville) as chair and Gregory Watson (Watertown) as vice chair. The ICC thanks outgoing chair and vice chair Jeff Levine (Brookline) and Ezra Glenn (formerly of Somerville).

Actions taken by the Committee in 2006 include approving a FY07 work plan, commenting on the proposed Central Artery Commitment Regulatory Changes, and determining Inner Core priorities for the UPWP and TIP. The ICC also continued to participate on the MPO’s RTAC.