

The Arlington Land Trust is a community-based nonprofit organization established in 2000 to protect undeveloped land in Arlington. As a membership organization, ALT accepts donations and welcomes volunteers to support its work.

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Arlington Land Trust News

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The Mugar parcel in 1951, viewed from Concord Turnpike toward Dorothy Road, when the marshy site was proposed as the location of a shopping center.

Mugar Development Deemed “Eligible” by State Agency

Over the strenuous objections of residents, community leaders, and environmental organizations including the Land Trust, a proposed development of East Arlington’s Mugar parcel has passed an initial state agency hurdle. In early December MassHousing issued a so-called “project eligibility letter” for a large-scale Chapter 40B development proposed by the Mugar family and Oaktree Development of Cambridge.

The project calls for 207 units of rental housing, 12 homeownership units, and over 300 at-grade parking spaces to be built on the western end of the site, covering acres of the

site with impervious surface and displacing identified wetlands. Invoking the provisions of Chapter 40B, the developer has given notice that it intends to seek waivers from many of the local Arlington regulations that protect sensitive natural resources.

The 17-acre Mugar parcel lies almost entirely in the 100-year floodplain as defined by the 2010 FEMA mapping, and includes substantial wetland areas. The site is a remnant of the Great Swamp of Alewife Brook, a tidal marsh which once handled tidal floodwaters naturally, but has been degraded and filled over the past century. With increasing development, and increasing rainfalls, our

surrounding and downstream neighborhoods, streets and roadways are threatened with more frequent and more severe flooding (see “Rainfall Data” below).

Town Objections Dismissed

At a Town Hall meeting on August 12, the Selectmen and about 250 residents made clear their frustration with the lack of detail in the plans submitted by the developer to MassHousing, and with the resource destruction and risk of increased flooding that seems inherent in the plan.

The developer contended that it was not required to provide more specifics or detailed engineering at that early stage of the process, and that only after MassHousing has granted the site approval would it invest in refining its plans. In a recent *Arlington Advocate* interview, the developer’s civil engineer acknowledged that “his firm has done very little research and planning on the site, and he has not yet developed a specific plan to deal with potential stormwater flooding issues.”

The irony of this statement is that once the approval is granted by MassHousing,

The 17.7-acre Mugar property plays an important role in Arlington and the greater Mystic River Watershed by providing floodwater storage in the naturally pervious land and wetlands within its boundaries. Wetlands and floodplains such as those located on the Mugar property serve as natural sponges that not only store floodwater, but also filter pollutants and recharge groundwater, providing a slow release of groundwater to streams during dry weather. These functions are particularly important in this vulnerable, low-lying section of East Arlington, which already experiences flooding during storms.

Mystic River Watershed Association
August 12, 2015, Comments at public hearing.

the burden is no longer on the developer to demonstrate that its plans will not have negative impacts. Rather the burden shifts to the Town to prove that the development would have harmful consequences.

ALT has long advocated for permanent conservation of this environmentally sensitive site, and the Town of Arlington has a clearly articulated and consistent public planning and policy history calling for the site’s protection in both the Open Space



Oaktree Development’s proposed plan for the Mugar parcel includes 219 housing units and more than 300 parking spaces off Dorothy Road.

and Recreation Plan and the Master Plan.

MassHousing itself cites the fact that “the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC), now known as the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), ranked the Site 12th out of the 205 most significant unprotected open spaces remaining in the Metropolitan Region.” Nevertheless, MassHousing has ignored its sister agency’s priorities in declaring the site “appropriate” for development. The process now moves to the Town’s Zoning Board of Appeals (see “Next Steps” below).

ALT will continue to advocate for the conservation value of this sensitive land. For more information on the effort to permanently protect the parcel, please contact the Coalition to Save the Mugar Wetlands at www.facebook.com/saveourwetlands or 781.643.3156, or Arlington Land Trust at info@arlingtonlandtrust.org.

Updated Rainfall Data Needed

Stormwater engineering standards and compensation requirements are based on historic rainfall data that define the chance of experiencing a major storm in any given year. How is it that we have had multiple “25-year,” “50-year,” and even “100-year” storms in the last two decades? Because the effects of climate change have caused the extremes of storm events to increase, while the official definitions of those storms is based on sixty-year-old regional rainfall statistics compiled and published in 1961.

A long-awaited update of the data released by the National Weather Service in September shows that, in many locations, higher local storm event extremes are now the norm. While the fact of more extreme storms is unfortunate, the recognition of that fact is good news for sensible decision-making about what, and where, development should be permitted.

The Weather Service has announced that these findings “supercede” the old data. However, the regulations of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), which enforces the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, still specify use of the obsolete information. A regulatory review process is required before the new data can be applied, which may take many months to complete.

We write to express our strong support for the Town of Arlington in its objective of permanently protecting the Mugar Parcel for open space and flood protection. This parcel is one of the few remaining areas of Arlington with significant wetlands; it is the last remaining buffer against the uncoordinated development that has resulted in the flooding that plagues East Arlington and the region.” ... “The goals of increasing affordable housing, and protecting our neighborhoods from storm damage and flooding, are both vitally important. We should not trade one for the others and as your legislators we will continue to work with the Town and our constituents to achieve both ends.

State Senator Ken Donnelly

Representative Dave Rogers

Representative Sean Garballey

April 2, 2015, Letter to *Arlington Advocate*

Next Steps in the 40B Process

Once project eligibility has been granted, a developer acting under Chapter 40B submits a single application to the local Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) for a “comprehensive permit,” so-called because all permitting procedures are consolidated under the ZBA. The zoning board notifies applicable Town boards, such as the Planning Board, the Board of Health, and the Conservation Commission, and requests their recommendations.

Within thirty days of the receipt of the application, the zoning board begins a public hearing, which can last up to six months. The ZBA must issue a decision within forty days

after ending the public hearing. The ZBA may approve the application as submitted, approve the project with conditions or changes, or deny the application altogether.

Zoning boards and other local officials often work with developers to modify the proposed project. The board may include conditions and requirements on any aspect of the project, such as height, density, site plan, utility improvements, or long-term affordability. If the ZBA denies the application or imposes conditions that render the project “uneconomic,” the developer may appeal the decision to the state Housing Appeals Committee. HAC is generally disposed to favor developers, but it may uphold the ZBA decision if it finds that

“local concerns,” including health and safety matters and open space needs, outweigh the regional need for affordable housing.

The comprehensive permit process offers two advantages to the developer: a streamlined and expedited path to permitting the project; and the ability to ask the ZBA to apply less stringent standards than those required by local bylaws, as long as they meet the state’s minimum requirements. A developer may ask for a waiver of any local regulation that it claims renders the project “uneconomic.”

In the Mugar case, Oaktree Development has already given notice that it may request:

- a waiver to forego full compliance with the Arlington Wetlands Bylaw;
- a waiver from prohibition of a new habitable structure in an Inland Wetlands District; and
- a waiver to allow less than 2:1 compensatory flood storage.

Our Conservation Commission will review the project under the state’s Wetlands Protection Act, which cannot be waived, but Arlington like many communities has wisely adopted more stringent requirements to protect its natural resources. ALT will urge that these reasonable and prudent local environmental standards be upheld.

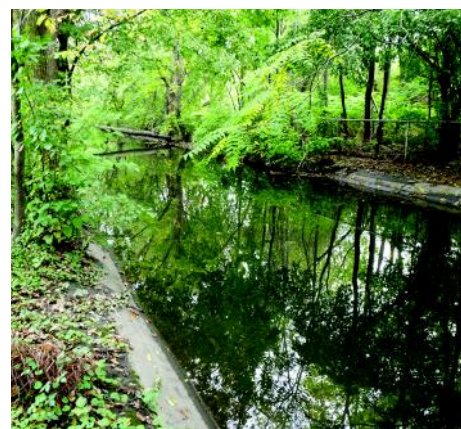
Watershed Quality Report Card

The quality of Arlington’s water bodies is of great concern to all of us who care about our local natural environment. Spy Pond, the Arlington Reservoir, Hill’s Pond in Menotomy Rocks Park, and the Mystic River and Lakes are valuable resources beloved by residents, but they have to be monitored and treated regularly to control invasive plants and algae. Stormwater runoff is another critical cause of poor water quality, largely coming from surface roads and illicit sewer discharges into storm drains.

A recent report by the Arlington-based Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA), in collaboration with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, highlights the levels of bacteria found in the waterways of Arlington and 21 other towns in the watershed.

Previous water quality reports presented a single grade for the entire system, which was often a D, but this recent analysis looked at specific waterways independently and found distinct differences. The grade is based on bacteria levels that meet state water quality standards for boating and swimming.

The results showed that many parts of the watershed, including the Mystic River and Lakes, had a grade of A or B+, but some smaller tributaries, including Mill Brook and Alewife Brook in Arlington, had a D grade. This result may not be a great surprise to local residents who are familiar with these waterways, but the report is important in documenting and highlighting where even more attention is needed to improve the problems of combined sewer overflows, leaking water and sewer pipes, and other sources of contamination entering the stormwater system.



Ann LeRoyer

Alewife Brook looks pristine but has poor water quality according to a new MyRWA report.

For more information about the report and MyRWA’s ongoing water quality monitoring program, visit www.mysticriver.org.

Symmes Parks and Open Spaces: A Neighbor's Perspective

The residents of the Arlington 360 apartments and townhomes and Brightview Senior Living have enjoyed calling Arlington home for almost two years now, and all of Arlington's residents have benefited from the new public open spaces that were created as part of the development approval process. Although this project was once the source of great concern for abutters and other neighbors due to its magnitude, uncertainties, and delays, the site has finally become a popular community gathering spot.

As an abutter I, with many of my neighbors, attended numerous public meetings to ensure that this project would not adversely impact our homes and quality of life. We watched with chagrin at the start of site preparation when significant oaks trees were cut down and the blasting and rock crushing began, and then we watched in dismay as the equipment was removed from the property after the economic crisis halted construction. We were left with plywood fencing surrounding the dusty barren landscape for more than three years with no idea when or if this project would ever be completed.

Fortunately for Arlington, the project was resurrected by a partnership including Jake Upton, a member of the original development team, who worked closely with neighbors and members of the Arlington Land Trust and Conservation Commission to facilitate the legal conservation restriction that now protects nearly half of the site as landscaped parks and woodlands.

As the project neared completion and the construction barriers were removed, the neighborhood began to rediscover its natural and built environment. During the years when the hospital crowned the hill, some lovely views of the Boston skyline could be seen from inside the buildings, but the wooded areas and buffers surrounding the site were often cluttered with litter and other debris from years of neglect.

Now both new residents and long-time neighbors are incorporating walks around the Arlington 360 complex to enjoy the unobstructed views of the Boston skyline, the two new parks, and other dedicated conservation areas. Many 360 and Brightview residents have also started to explore their larger

neighborhood, walking with their families and dogs along Woodside Lane and other nearby streets.

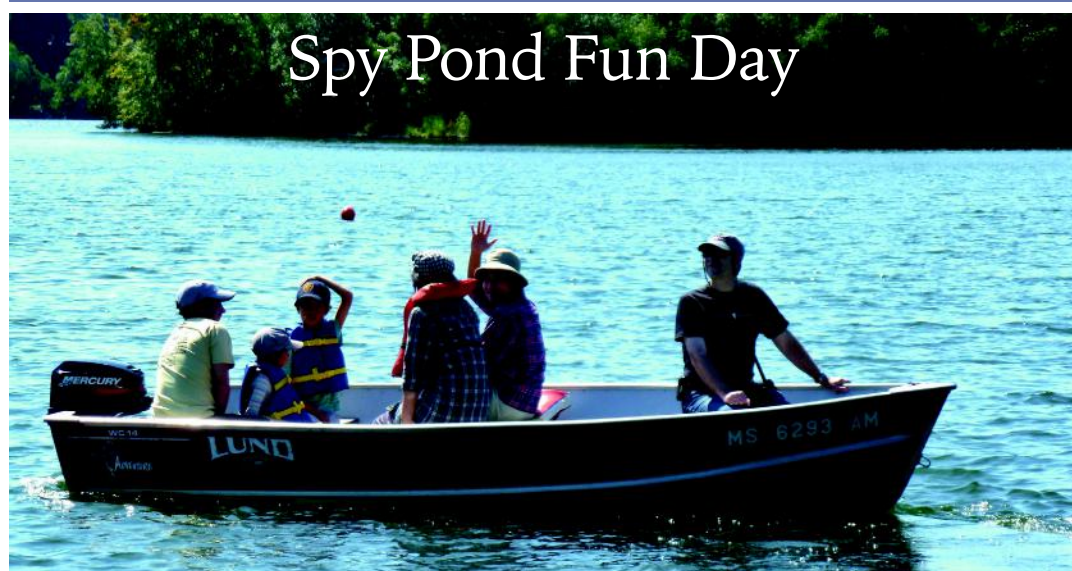
A true community space is now thriving in our neighborhood. The total lunar eclipse in September, for example, brought many neighbors into Hattie Symmes Park where we met residents of Arlington 360 and those from other parts of town to view that magnificent event.

To encourage more of this kind of exchange, the Land Trust and Conservation Commission are fostering the creation of a Friends of the Symmes Woods group to

provide input – and hands-on help – to improve the health and appearance of the woods and to explore other potential activities for the community. Landscaping decisions will be guided by a Forest Management Plan created with the help of a certified arborist, and will include whether and where to locate walking trails and what new species of trees or other plants should be introduced.

If you are interested in joining the Friends of the Symmes Woods, please contact me via email at kpj64@comcast.net.

Karen Johnson, Woodside Lane



This annual event sponsored by the Friends of Spy Pond Park and many other collaborators was held on Saturday, May 30, 2015. Spy Pond Fun Day celebrates all that Spy Pond and its public park have to offer, including boat rides to Elizabeth Island offered by the Arlington Land Trust with help from the Arlington Belmont Crew Team. ALT board members led natural history tours of the island and the crew members ferried visitors back and forth in their launches. During the afternoon nearly 175 people were able to visit the island, most for the first time, including about 100 adults and 75 children.

Fun Day activities also featured the opportunity to paddle a kayak or canoe (courtesy of Still River Outfitters and Arlington Recreation Department); enjoy the park's rain garden and walking trails; learn about recycling and watershed management (Department of Public Works and Mystic River Watershed Association); and participate in nature education projects (Mass Audubon/Habitat). A host of crafts projects and exploration games for all ages were provided by the Friends of Spy Pond Park and Arlington Center for the Arts, and an exhibit of sculptures was on display as part of Elements: Art Rocks Spy Pond, created by Arlington Public Art with the Recreation Department.

Celebrating Special Places

Arlington Reservoir

At the Arlington Reservoir the volunteer Reservoir Committee of Vision 2020 had another busy year maintaining the native plants in the Wildlife Habitat Garden on both sides of the spillway and also adding more plants in the parking lot island. In September the Reservoir was Arlington's Park of the Month and we celebrated with an art-themed event on Sunday, the 20th. Activities included paintings decorative rocks, putting colorful ribbons on the bridge, and building an archway to the shade garden.

We continue to struggle with invasive plants, but have been able to push back the Japanese Knotweed along the path from the parking lot to the garden. We were fortunate this year that the Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA) was able to organize some water chestnut harvests using their corporate volunteers to collect these invasive plants from areas that were too shallow for the harvesting machines that had cleared most of the deeper areas earlier in the summer. Controlling the water chestnuts requires annual harvesting, and we hope to continue this collaboration with MyRWA next year, in conjunction with ongoing support from the Town's Water Bodies Fund for the mechanical harvesting. For more information, visit www.arlington2020.org/reservoir/.

Arlington's Great Meadows

Arlington's Great Meadows continues to be a very popular walking and nature watching area. More people are learning about it in part because of the new ACROSS Lexington paths that go through and around it. The Friends (FoAGM) have also produced a new brochure that contains a map of the area and tells people more about it. See the brochure and other information at www.foagm.org. Some future plans are to open up another upland meadow area that is Woodcock habitat and think again about creating a perimeter path.

The Arlington Land Trust serves as the fiscal sponsor for the Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows Fund and the Arlington Conservation Stewards Fund, which in turn supports projects at the Reservoir and other sites in town. You can designate contributions to either of these funds when you renew your membership or make a special gift to the Land Trust. Thank you.

Robbins Town Gardens

The Friends of the Robbins Town Gardens became a nonprofit organization in June 2015 to assist the Town of Arlington to protect, preserve, restore, and maintain the historic landscape and features in the Winfield Robbins Memorial Garden and the grounds surrounding the Town Hall, Robbins Library, and Whittemore-Robbins House.

For many years members of the Arlington Garden Club have worked hard in the gardens: planting, weeding, and removing invasive plants, among other activities. Miriam Levine, president of the Friends, explains, "Our group seeks to build on their effort, taking



Rachel James



Sandra Ruggiero

Top: Habitat Garden volunteers sponsored a celebration of the Reservoir as September's Park of the Month.

Above: An early November walk, titled "All Around AGM," attracted nearly thirty participants.

positive steps to support improvements in the gardens."

Dedicated in 1913, the gardens are the setting for the statue "Menotomy Indian Hunter" by noted American sculptor, Cyrus Dallin, an Arlington resident for most of his life. In 1939 the Robbins sisters employed the Olmsted Brothers firm, founded by the sons of famed landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, to develop new plans for the gardens. Their goal, stated in the Town Report of 1939, was to create a more informal, woodsy and rocky environment and a naturalistic planting as a background for the Indian. The new boundary wall . . . was built with a view of "uniting together" the Town Hall and Library into one visual composition.

To learn more about this new Friends group and its efforts toward this goal, contact Miriam Levine at miriamlevine7@gmail.com.

Next Steps for the Community Preservation Act

The Community Preservation Act (CPA) was adopted by Arlington voters on November 4, 2014, establishing a new, dedicated funding source to enable the Town to:

- Acquire or preserve open space;
- Rehabilitate or create local parks, playgrounds, and athletic fields;
- Preserve or restore historic resources and artifacts; and
- Help meet local families' housing needs.

The Town of Arlington began collecting the local surcharge revenue of 1.5 percent on net property taxes on the August 2015 tax bill and will continue collection on a quarterly basis. The state match will begin in November 2016. In keeping with the promise to keep the CPA as affordable as possible, the following exemptions are now in place:

- \$100,000 of the value of each

taxable parcel of residential real property;

- Property owned and occupied as a domicile by any person who qualifies for the low-income CPA exemption;
- Property owned and occupied as a domicile by any senior (60+) who qualifies for the low- or moderate-income CPA exemption; and
- \$100,000 of the value of each taxable parcel of class three commercial property and class four industrial property, as defined in state law.

Over the summer, candidates applied to be part of the nine member Community Preservation Committee (CPC) that oversees the management of the Act locally and makes recommendations to Town

Meeting, which must approve all projects to be funded.

Five of the slots on the committee are mandated by the state's CPA legislation. The following members were appointed by their respective boards: Mike Cayer, Redevelopment Board; JoAnn Robinson, Historical Commission; Charles Tirone, Conservation Commission; Richard Murray, Housing Authority; and Leslie Mayer, Park and Recreation Commission. Four other members were appointed by the Board of Selectmen and the Town Manager after a large pool of excellent candidates had applied and were vetted by a Selection Committee: Andrew Bengston, David Levy, Eric Helmuth, and Clarissa Rowe.

At the Committee's first meeting in early November 2015, Clarissa Rowe was voted as chair and Eric Helmuth as vice chair. The second meeting

on November 16 was a training session with the statewide Community Preservation Coalition, which helps new committees get started and explains the workings of this complicated legislation.

The main tasks for Arlington's CPC in this first year are to write a Community Preservation Plan for the Town, hold one or more public meetings to solicit ideas for this plan, develop an application process, and submit warrant articles for review and approval for the spring 2016 Town Meeting. Since the committee is getting started late in the budget process, the recommendations this year need to be well researched and already agreed upon by many Town boards and commissions. The committee expects that much of the collected money will be held in reserve this year so the process can be developed to be fair and representative of the entire Town, and set a positive precedent for the use of these valuable tax dollars in future years.

The Town website has a special page devoted to the Community Preservation Committee, under the Town Governance header. All meeting minutes and agendas are posted there, and a video of the training session will be posted as well. The statewide Community Preservation Coalition has an excellent website (www.communitypreservation.org) that includes examples of CPA projects in the other 159 towns and cities that have adopted the CPA to date.

We thank that many Arlington Land Trust members who served on the CPA steering committee and voted to adopt the Act, and we encourage you to follow the work of this committee through participation in upcoming public meetings or other events.

Please come to the public meeting to discuss your ideas for the Community Preservation Act projects on January 20 at the Town Hall Auditorium at 7 pm.

Planning for Arlington's Future

Arlington's Master Plan was adopted in February 2015 and now a volunteer Master Plan Implementation Committee is working with the Redevelopment Board and staff in the Planning Department to pursue various actions recommended in the plan. Several zoning changes that may affect both residential and commercial areas will be among the items to be addressed by Town Meeting this spring. The complete Master Plan can be viewed at <http://www.arlingtonma.gov/departments/planning-community-development/master-plan>

The Town's Open Space Committee has also completed an updated **Open Space and Recreation Plan** for 2015-2022, and it was approved by the Massachusetts Department of Energy and Environmental Affairs (Division of Conservation Services) in September. Because these two planning processes were occurring simultaneously over

the past few years, much of the information was shared and the goals and objectives were reinforced. The final Open Space Plan can be viewed at <http://www.arlingtonma.gov/town-governance/all-boards-and-committees/open-space-committee/open-space-plans/2015-2022>

In addition, the committee and Planning Department have

created a web-based application that features photographs, maps, and brief descriptions of key Arlington parks and open spaces based on the Plan. This app, titled Experiencing Arlington's Open Spaces, is available at <http://www.arlingtonma.gov/town-governance/all-boards-and-committees/open-space-committee>

Message from the President



Dear Members and Friends,

Thank you for your continued support of the Arlington Land Trust! With nearly 300 individual and family members, our all-volunteer nonprofit organization had a busy year in 2015.

The turn of the year is a time for reflection and recognition of all that came together to move us forward, and I'd like to highlight a very important public/private partnership between the Land Trust and the Arlington Conservation Commission – our partner in protecting our two most significant land holdings. While ALT owns Elizabeth Island in Spy Pond, the Conservation Commission co-holds the conservation restriction (with Mass Audubon), and together ALT and the Conservation Commission co-hold the conservation restriction on the two new parks and the woods associated with the Arlington 360 and Brightview sites on the former Symmes Hospital property along Summer Street.

On Elizabeth Island we continued our stewardship, working with the state's endangered species program – because the endangered Engelmann's umbrella sedge is found along the pond shore – and with the Conservation Commission to permit plans for erosion control measures near the boat landing, which has

seen increased activity since we acquired the Island. In the spring we will be teaming with the experienced trail crew leaders at the Appalachian Mountain Club to stabilize a badly eroding portion of the Island trail. Look for future email notices on volunteer opportunities on the Island!

We are also putting in place best stewardship and management practices for the Arlington 360 woods and

parks that we, along with the Conservation Commission, have the responsibility to protect and ensure continued public access. You can read more about Arlington 360 on page 4.

Land conservation, like so many things, is never done alone. Organizations, members, and partners – be they private or public – are vital!

Finally, I hope to see you at our Annual Meeting on Tuesday, January 26 from 7 to 9 pm at the

Central School/Senior Center on Maple St. Our guest speaker this year is Town Manager Adam Chapdelaine. He will discuss the many energy efficiency measures that the town is undertaking.

Thank you, and have a great 2016!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jennifer Ryan".

Jennifer Ryan
ALT President



Peter Belknap

Eroded sections of the path on Elizabeth Island will be rebuilt in the spring of 2016.

Member Profile: Susan Stamps



After growing up in New Hampshire and then moving to rural Carlisle where she raised her children and was active in town government for 35 years, Susan Stamps brought her love of land conservation and outdoor recreation to her new home in East Arlington in 2010. She arrived in town just when the Land Trust was finalizing its campaign to acquire Elizabeth Island. She became a member and contributed to the campaign, with both funds and energy. For several years she has volunteered for ALT's guided tours of the island during Spy Pond Fun Days. Susan is now deeply involved in Arlington as a member of Town Meeting, the Recycling Committee and the Tree Committee, and she was a co-chair of the successful effort to adopt the Community Preservation Act in 2014. All this on top of working as an attorney and mediator in her family law practice based in Concord.

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The Arlington Land Trust thanks its members and friends
for their generous contributions through November 2015.

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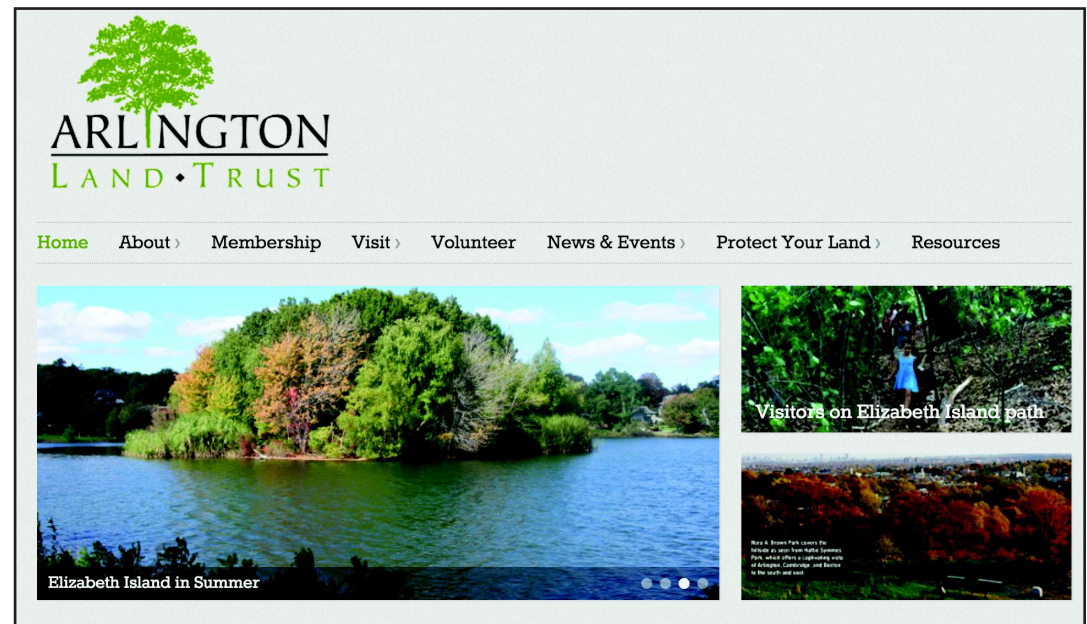
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Arlington Land Trust Website

We are proud to announce our new and improved Arlington Land Trust website, developed with help from web designer Gabe Ayers of Long Trail Web in Vermont. The new site features more information and photographs of our main sites, Elizabeth Island

and the parks and woods at Arlington 360, as well as other public open spaces around town. We have links to the Coalition to Save the Mugar Wetlands and other features related to our land conservation work. Check it out at www.arlingtonlandtrust.org.



Arlington Land Trust Annual Meeting

Tuesday,
January 26, 2016
7-9 pm
Central School/
Senior Center
27 Maple Street,
Arlington

Special Guest:
Adam Chapdelaine,
Town Manager

Growing Greener:
Arlington's Energy
Future

Town Manager Adam Chapdelaine will describe recent achievements in energy efficiency implemented throughout the Town. These energy- and cost-saving measures have been made possible by Arlington's designation in 2010 as a Massachusetts Green Community, which allows the Town to apply for grant funding to reduce our municipal energy consumption.

Over the past five years Arlington has received nearly one million dollars from the state's Green Communities program. Among the projects funded are the installation of LED streetlights and new Energy Management Systems at most schools, including the use of solar panels and more energy-efficient heating and cooling equipment.

Mr. Chapdelaine will update us on how far we have come to reach our original 20 percent energy reduction goal, and answer questions such as: What are the latest technologies the Town is utilizing; and What additional sustainability measures will we see in the coming years?

UPCOMING EVENTS: Spring 2016

ALT Membership Renewal

If you have not already renewed your ALT membership for 2015, please respond to our annual mailing, go to the website (www.arlingtonlandtrust.org) to download a copy of the membership form, or sign up at www.networkforgood.org to renew online. Thank you again for your continuing support. If you have any questions, please contact ALT at info@arlingtonlandtrust.org.

Community Preservation Committee Public Meeting

**Wednesday, January 20
7 pm, Arlington Town Hall**

Discuss ideas for Community Preservation Act projects (see page 6)

EcoFest

**Saturday, March 19
10 am to 2 pm, Arlington Town Hall**

Focusing on the theme "Ready for Climate Change?", EcoFest 2016 will explore what people are doing and can do in their own homes to adapt to the changes that are already happening – such as increased flooding, especially in East Arlington, where homeowners could install a rain garden or de-pave the driveway. Some attention will also be paid to what our Town is doing to be prepared. Cosponsored by Sustainable Arlington/Vision 2020, the Department of Public Works, and the Arlington Garden Club, this annual program presents lectures, family activities, and information booths with both local nonprofit organizations and commercial vendors of sustainable products.

Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference

**Saturday, April 2
Worcester Technical High School**

The 26th annual conference of the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition (www.massland.org) will offer day-long training and networking opportunities for land trust board members and staff, parks administrators and advocates, colleagues from federal, state and local government agencies, students, and philanthropists. The conference theme is "Managing for Success" and includes a full day of workshops and discussions on fostering healthy communities in Massachusetts through land conservation. The keynote speaker is Dr. M. Sanjayan, a global conservation scientist, writer and Emmy-nominated news contributor specializing in the role of conservation in improving human well-being.

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