

TOWN OF WESTON



ANNUAL REPORT 2004

**REPORTS OF THE
TOWN OFFICERS OF
WESTON,
MASSACHUSETTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDING
DECEMBER 31, 2004**



www.weston.org

IN MEMORIAM



JOAN B. VERNON
(1932 - 2005)

The Board of Selectmen dedicates this 2004 Annual Town Report to the memory of Joan B. Vernon, a dedicated civic leader whom some have called the mother of our town. Throughout her remarkable life she always held hope for the future and provided inspiration to those with whom she worked.

Joan Vernon served on the Finance Committee, Youth Commission, the committee to study public buildings, Board of Health, committee to examine town governance, steering committee for recruiting and selecting a town manager and for eight years on the Board of Selectmen, (from 1974 - 1980 and from 2003 - until her death in early 2005), which she chaired for two of those years.

Joan's view of town government was not abstract but operational. It always focused on the human dimension: how to get people organized, to meet a need that should be provided in whole or in part through town government. Institutional forms were of secondary importance to how best to accomplish a task. She got to know town employees, was very sensitive to how they interfaced with the community. She helped with their personal needs from health care to hospice. Out of this grew her unique contribution to our town, which was weaving a fabric of people seeking common goals. She returned to the Board of Selectman out of concern that we were reflecting a distance between those who were serving and those who are served. She saw Weston as a small community, people's needs mattered and impersonal bureaucracy should be avoided.

Joan was a perpetual student of government at all levels; a voracious reader whose interests ranged from Paul Tillich to Tom Clancy. She constantly sought an intellectual challenge through her reading. She possessed a demanding curiosity, which had to be satisfied, and if you stood in the way of that pursuit by withholding information, you were in deep trouble. She had the nose and determination of a good intelligence officer. To deny her access to information would bring about a real confrontation. On one occasion when the Town was engaged in a very ambitious open space acquisition program, she inquired as to what chairmen of the Conservation Commission and the Board of Selectmen were up to in cutting bargain sale deals for conservation land. "What is this bargain sale talk all about?" she asked. Upon receiving the reply: "Well, that's kind of complicated; leave it to us," there was a steely look on her face as she walked away. At the next Board meeting she said, "I've been checking into this bargain sale thing, and it seems like it's a situation where the seller of land wins, the town wins because of a lower price and the Internal Revenue Service loses." Now can you ask for a better understanding of a bargain sale?

Joan may have had a motto which goes like this: In error perhaps but in doubt never. She abhorred the vacuum of indecision. There were times in which she would charge ahead beyond any predictable limits. One of those occasions was when after the blizzard of 1978 she seized control of the AAA market and sent the manager who wanted to close upstairs to his office. She organized a circle of friends who had four-wheel drive vehicles to deliver the necessities of life, limited to 12 items, to those who were snowed in. The owner of the AAA called one of her colleagues during this siege and asked what he should do. The response was: "Only one thing: don't get in her way."

In 1980 Joan retired from the Board of Selectmen and before returning to town service on the Board of Health became involved in a governance study of First Parish. She discovered that the church had committees which served children at risk, substance abuse, domestic relations, urban education and diversity. This led her to the pursuit of many of the same issues which she had dealt with on the Board of Selectmen. Joan had leveraged into faith based community outreach. Covert action was a natural for Joan-

Throughout her service in town government there were many continuing issues. One was the need for low-cost housing and housing for the elderly. Two results of this concern were the Brook School conversion and Merriam Village. Joan saw this as a continuing need and chided one of her fellow Selectmen on many occasions for helping to buy up conservation land and thereby inflating the value of the remaining land making alternative housing a more critical need. At the time of Joan's death this remains a major piece of unfinished business. The most

suitable living memorial to Joan from the Town would be to continue to embroider the fabric of community, which she worked so hard to create and which reflects the soul of our town.

--Adapted from the comments made by Harold Hestnes at Joan Vernon's memorial service.

Cover: New addition to Brook School Apartments.
Photograph by Richard Mandelkorn Photography, Lincoln, MA. Submitted by: ICON architecture, inc. Boston, the building's architects.

Thanks are due to the following people for supplying the photographs that appear on the pages of this Annual Town Report:

- *Weston Town Crier*, Art Illman, photographer, -- pages 2 and 15;
- Members of the Board of Selectmen -- page 15;
- Weston Historical Commission - page 41;
- Weston Police Department - pages 56 and 59; the photograph on page 59 was taken by Environmental Protection Officer Keith Robinson;
- Weston International Affiliation Committee - pages 94 and 95;
- Thomas Selldorff and the Weston Forest and Trail Association - page 160.

*Printed by:
Goodway Graphics
Burlington, Massachusetts*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TOWN DIRECTORY	<i>Inside covers</i>	DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS	62
DEDICATION	2	Highway Division	62
CREDITS	4	Stormwater Division	63
TABLE OF CONTENTS	5	Park and Cemetery Division	63
CALENDAR	6	Solid Waste and Recycling Division	64
LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES	6	Town Engineer	65
STATISTICS	7	Water Division	66
OFFICERS OF THE TOWN	8	HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES	67
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	15	Alcohol and Drug Education Advisory Committee	67
Board of Selectmen	16	Council on Aging	67
Licenses Issued by the Selectmen	20	Elderly Housing Committee	69
Building Facilities Committee	21	Board of Health	70
Cable Advisory Committee	23	East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project	72
Information Systems	23	Housing Needs Committee	73
Public Spaces Committee	24	Youth Counselor	74
Registrars of Voters	24	CULTURE AND RECREATION	75
Town Clerk	25	Cultural Council	75
Births	25	Public Library	76
Marriages	28	Recreation Commission	80
Deaths	29	SCHOOLS	81
License Report - Dogs, Fish and Game	33	School Committee	82
LAND USE, PLANNING AND ZONING	34	Weston International Affiliation	94
Board of Appeals	34	Weston War Memorial Education Fund	96
Community Preservation Committee	35	TOWN RECORDS	97
Conservation Commission	38	FINANCIAL REPORTS	131
Crescent Street Historic District Commission	39	Finances in Brief	132
Historical Commission	39	Board of Assessors	134
Weston/MWRA Working Group	42	Treasurer and Collector	136
MWRA Public Access Group	42	Commissioners of Trust Funds	137
Tree Advisory Group	44	Town Accountant	138
Planning Board	45	Balance Sheet	138
Regional Agencies	48	Departmental Expenditures	148
Metropolitan Area Planning Council	48	Authorized and Unissued Debt	154
MetroWest Growth Management Comm.	50	INDEX	159
PROTECTION OF PERSONS & PROPERTY	51		
Emergency Management	51		
Fire Department	51		
Fire Station 2 Study Committee	53		
Inspector of Buildings and Wires	55		
Police Department	56		
Community Services Officer	59		
Parking Clerk	60		
Pedestrian and Vehicular Traffic Committee	61		
Traffic Advisory Committee	61		

CALENDAR*

Board of Selectmen - Normally meets on 2 nd & 4 th Tuesdays - 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall	Call Selectmen's Office (781) 893-7320, ext. 308 or email zeytoonjian.l@westonmass.org
School Committee - Normally meets twice per month on Mondays at the Weston High School Library	Call School Info Line, (781) 529-8092 Superintendent's Office, 529-8080 or check www.weston.org
Planning Board - Normally meets Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall	Call Planning Board Office, (781) 893-7320, ext. 321 or 323
Board of Health - Normally meets the 3 rd Wednesday of each month, 9:00 a.m. at Town Hall	Call Board of Health, (781) 893-7320 ext 332 or check www.westonboh.org
Recreation Commission - Normally meets on 1 st Tuesday of each month, 7:30 p.m.	Call Recreation Department, (781) 529-0203
Board of Library Trustees - Normally meets the 1 st Tuesday of each month, 7:30 p.m. at the Library	Call Library (781) 893-331, ext. 228
Commissioners of Trust Funds - Meets on an as-needed basis, generally once per quarter, at Town Hall	Call Treasurer's Office (781) 893-7320 ext 315
Board of Assessors - Normally meets twice per month (more frequently from December-March) on Tuesdays, 6:45 p.m. at Town Hall	Call Assessors' Office (781) 893-7320 ext. 312
Board of Appeals - Normally meets Mondays, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall	Call Board of Appeals Office, (781) 893-7320, ext. 322 or 323
Conservation Commission - Normally meets Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall	Call Conservation Commission Office, (781) 893-7320, ext. 322 or 323
Historical Commission - Normally meets Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall	Call Planning Board Office, (781) 893-7320, ext. 321 or 323

*All schedules subject to change - Call offices listed

LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES
(as of December 31, 2004)

Senators in Congress	Edward M. Kennedy, Squaw Island, Barnstable John F. Kerry, Boston
Representative in Congress, Seventh Congressional District	Edward J. Markey, Malden
Councilor, Third District	Marilyn Petitto Devaney, Watertown
State Senator, Fifth Middlesex District	Susan C. Fargo, Lincoln
Representative in General Court, Fourteenth Norfolk District	Alice Hanlon Peicsh, Wellesley