

Demographic Change Task Force  
Minutes  
July 9, 2008  
Estabrook Hall

Present: Margaret Coppe (School Liaison), Ben Esty, Bebe Fallick (Chair), Dan Krupka, Yukari Scott, Stephanie Singer, Candy McLaughlin (Asst. to the Town Manager), Carl Valente (Town Manager)

Other members not present: Marion Cohen (2020 Vision Com. Liaison)

Chair Bebe Fallick called the meeting to order at 7:08 AP.

Holly St. Clair, Data Center Manager, Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) made a presentation that introduced the committee to the kinds of information available along with some population information specific to Lexington. She noted that the yearly population estimate would be released the next day, July 10. MAPC is composed of 101 cities and towns in the Boston area, while the population trends and projections are for the 164 communities in the Greater Boston Region.

Lexington has a modest growth scenario of 8%. The model, based on cohort-survival methodology, takes into account the births, deaths, and movement (immigration/emigration) of a 5-year cohort. One of the major factors contributing to population growth is due to immigration. While the focus has been on the negative aspects of illegal immigration, there are benefits from much of the immigration in this area in an increased labor force, which is educated and possesses global connections. 1/3 of immigrants have advanced degrees with English proficiency, 1/3 have advanced degrees with limited English proficiency, and 1/3 are in need of services.

Questions that the committee were interested in are:

1. What is the total number of jobs in Lexington?
2. What is the number of biotech jobs in Lexington?
3. What is the number of workers who live in Lexington?
4. What is the number of individuals who live and work in Lexington?

Ms. St. Clair finished her presentation with the question, "How do we encourage immigrant groups to stay?"

The committee was introduced to the MetroBoston DataCommon ([www.metrobostondatacommon.org](http://www.metrobostondatacommon.org)), an online tool providing data about the region and each of its cities and towns. On-line tutorials and training workshops are available through MAPC.

The minutes from the June 11, 2008 meeting were unanimously accepted.

The committee reached consensus on picking a limited number of trends for study over the next year.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 24, 2008, 7 PM, place to be determined. The Lexington Fire Chief and the Lexington Police Chief will be invited to discuss public safety in the light of changing demographics.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 PM.

Minutes submitted by  
Margaret Coppe