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Conservation Commission Minutes 11/03/2011

Arlington Conservation Commission
 Minutes
 November 3, 2011

Mr. Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. in the second floor conference room of the Town Hall Annex. Present were Nathaniel Stevens, David White, Charles Tirone, Curt Connors, Chris Naylor, Eileen Coleman, Catherine Garnett and Michelle Durocher of the Commission. Also present was resident Bruce Whettle.

7:45 pm – Commission Business

Coleman/White motioned to approve the 9/15 and 10/6 **minutes** with edits; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. White updated the Commission on shoreline and path repairs at the Arlington Reservoir **water chestnut** removal project. Mr. White presented a proposal for a boat ramp, similar to that installed at Spy Pond. Ms. Garnett expressed concern for the location, since there are trees that would be jeopardized. Other members asked could erosion mats be used for harvesting activities, the conveyor belt, is there dam sheeting where the erosion is, does the ramp have to be as large as that proposed?

Ms. Garnett expressed further concern about the future impact to that area beyond the ramp – turning radius from the ramp, vehicle access to ramp, damage to surrounding area from these vehicles when they access the ramp. Just because that area was used this year, is it the best area for this activity to occur? There should be some study made of other options before a decision on this area is settled.

Study should be on:

1. Access to the area by other users
2. Potential environmental damage to area by vehicle access here
3. Usage patterns at the reservoir: include pathways, habitat garden and parking lot.
4. Storage issues of drying vegetation
5. Parking lot and its use and any potential uses for this activity~

Mr. White also reported that this work spent the \$20K in the **water bodies fund** for this year. Spy Pond will also need attention in the near future as well as follow through at the Reservoir so the fund may need significantly higher amounts in the near term. Spy Pond sonar treatments cost as much as \$30K.

Mr. White also sent word of volunteer work to be conducted this weekend at the **Reservoir Habitat Garden**.

Brian Murray will conduct a volunteer project at **Mt. Gillboa** to clear trails as soon as work from last week's storm is completed.

The subcommittee working on the **Walking Book** met on 10/27 and will meet again in early December.

Mr. Whettle discussed some **tree work** that is needed adjacent to his property and within the outer Buffer Zone of the isolated wetland at 86 Coolidge Rd. He will forward the recommendation of his arborist to the Commission and contact the landowner about completing the removal of the diseased tree that is leaning over his house.

Ms. Beckwith will draft a newspaper advertisement soliciting a volunteer to coordinate the **Land Stewards** group and

forward this to the Board.
Meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.
Respectfully submitted,
Corinna Beckwith
Commission Administrator