



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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12/20/2011 Minutes

VISION 2020 ENVIRONMENT TASK GROUP ~RESERVOIR ~COMMITTEE

DECEMBER 20, 2012 MEETING~ ~ ~ ~ ~Approved 1/12/12~ ~ ~

In attendance: ~Lisa Fredman, Susan Gilbert, ~Martine Gougault, Jane Howard, Elizabeth Karpati, Stephan Miller, ~Michael Ratner, David White.

Facilitator: ~David White ~ ~ ~ Minutes: Elizabeth Karpati

1. ~Previous Minutes - The minutes of the November 28 and December 3 meetings were accepted with one update: ~Martine has revised her first, off-the-cuff estimate of the value of the plants stolen from the habitat garden to a figure of \$350.

2. ~Water Bodies Maintenance - The Spy Pond Committee met with representatives of the Fin Com, Con Com, and DPW to discuss funding for water bodies maintenance. ~Clarissa Rowe of the BoS suggests that money be appropriated through the DPW budget, but such money must be used within a given fiscal year, and the need fluctuates because some weeds need expensive treatment in some years and nothing in other years, and timing of treatments also does not correlate well with the budget cycle. At least some appropriations via the water bodies fund, where money can be held over from year to year, will also be needed. ~The total need for FY 2012 will be \$50,000 in addition to what is left in the water bodies fund now. ~This would allow for full-scale water chestnut harvesting at the Res in summer 2012 and full weed treatment at Spy Pond in spring 2013. ~Subsequent annual needs should be less, allowing for maintenance harvesting at the Res and accumulating funding for the next full Spy Pond treatment several years from now.

3. ~Harvesting Access - ~The harvesting process damaged the shoreline at the Res, in turn causing \$14,000 damage to DPW equipment. ~A hardened ramp is probably needed, which could also serve recreational uses. ~Park & Rec estimates it would cost \$12,000. ~DPW and Park & Rec need to work this out together.

4. 2013 Calendar - Plans for a calendar for fund-raising were discussed. ~Suggested features include: ~a 15-month calendar; ~non-shiny paper to make it easier to write on; could include more than photos, e.g. drawings or collages, perhaps from schoolchildren. ~How many to order is a thorny question. ~We could seek sponsors, e.g. stores or landscapers. Lisa will investigate with Arlington Litho.

5. ~Miscellany:

- Some of our best pictures could be offered for Arlington's annual report.
- The garden was featured in the just-issued newsletter of the Arlington Land Trust.
- Res committee's annual report: ~Martine will draft and circulate it and will try to include an exact list of what was stolen. Distribute it at Town Meeting and put it on the website.
- The fallen tree at the "island" in the parking lot has been removed, but the area is still infested with Japanese knotweed which should be monitored and cut.
- The signs identifying the garden project still haven't been installed. ~Jane will remind the Town Manager.
- In some parks "anchors" are used to keep newly planted trees from being stolen. ~But these are probably too big and costly for shrubs. ~David suggested planting smaller shrubs that are less worth stealing, and planting them earlier to get them better rooted.