

**VISION 2020 ENVIRONMENT TASK GROUP**  
**MARCH 17, 2015 MEETING**  
**Approved 4/20/15**

**RESERVOIR COMMITTEE**  
**Town Hall Annex, First Floor**

**In attendance:** Cathy Garnett, Martine Gougault, Jane Howard, Rachel James, Elizabeth Karpati, Stephan Miller, Michael Ratner, David White. **Facilitator:** David White **Minutes:** Elizabeth Karpati

**2015 meetings:** 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, April 21, May 19, June 16. Town Hall, First Floor Conference Room.

1. The **minutes** of the February meeting were accepted as presented.
2. **Winter report:** David showed some pictures of conditions around the Res. A lot of snow was dumped both on the parking lot and the nearby “island”. We need to tell DPW that we had cleared Japanese knotweed and planted some natives on the “island” so that snow shouldn’t be dumped there. Witch hazels planted along the path from the parking lot to the garden have survived and are starting to bloom. The garden is still covered with snow. Martine suggested we should not focus our attention exclusively on the garden.
3. **Fencing:** The stakes-and-rope fencing has been pretty much destroyed; something sturdier is needed. But a habitat garden should not fence off access for small animals.. We agreed to try some stronger posts (perhaps metal) and wire cable on the stretch paralleling the spillway before deciding on the type of fencing for the whole garden. We will probably need to rent an auger to dig sufficiently deep holes for the posts, and anchor them with gravel in the holes.
4. **Work days:** The first one will be the morning of Saturday, April 25.
5. **Water bodies fund:** The Con Com has a working group (including David White) which will survey all water bodies in Arlington, down to intermittent streams, to see which ones need attention. A survey done years ago on the three major water bodies provides some baseline information. If any water bodies need professional analysis, that will come from the water bodies fund which is overseen by Teresa at DPW.
6. **Water chestnuts:** Martine and Michael went to a MyRWA conference on water chestnuts, The best timing seems to be a two-step harvest: late June/early July and again late August. The Res is a “small” project, so it is difficult to get the harvester crew in prime time. Martine suggests trying to get a MyRWA expert, Patrick Herron, to look at the Res and advise us.
7. **Hand harvesting** requires a major effort (many people) to have an effect. The Recreation Dept. can lend us a couple of canoes (except on weekends) for hand harvesting in water too shallow for the mechanical harvester. We would also need some private canoes. The work is messy, so borrowed canoes would need to be cleaned up before being returned. We would also need a better launching spot for canoes than we used last year.
8. **Lowell Street Woods:** This project is on hold due to the snow cover.
9. **The Vision 2020 Standing Committee** is proposing a reorganization with a reduction to 9 appointed voting members, plus an advisory board of Town officials. Task group chairs (or representatives) would no longer be automatic members, but they could be in an appointed position. The Res committee agrees that task groups should be represented on the SC.
10. **ACROSS** trails have been marked. David has a map showing which ones loop through Arlington. Adding some directional signs (e.g. “To Great Meadows”) was suggested.
11. **Party:** The potluck originally scheduled for February and rescheduled for March 7 has been rescheduled again, for Sunday, March 29, 6 p.m. 29 Newland Street.