

Minutes for the Reservoir Committee meeting of September 15, 2015

Approved October 20, 2015

Those present were: David White, Martine Gougault, Stephan Miller, Michael Ratner, Christina Burwell, Lisa Fredman, Ann LeRoyer and Cathy Garnett

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm

Review and approve previous minutes. We reviewed the minutes from the last two meetings (April and June). Both documents were approved without amendments.

Review **Town Day** activities and approve expenditures. Martine thought that the event went really well. She felt that if we continue to hand out sachet bags at future Town Days, we must have enough of them to meet the demand. She also added that there were not enough people from the Reservoir Committee to populate the booth and prepare enough sachets to last the entire day. David estimates that we should be prepared to distribute at least 300 sachets next year.

We reviewed which of the sachet ingredients were the most popular. Lemon peel and lavender topped the list. Cinnamon and sandalwood were also popular. Lisa told us that they ran out of bags at about 2:45 in the afternoon which was near the end of the event. Martine will make an inventory of the leftover ingredients so that we can calculate what we will need to order for next year. David suggested that we also use smaller bags. The herbs purchased cost \$104.86 and Vision 2020 will probably pick up the cost.

David showed us the new **Arlington Reservoir Brochures** that were given out at Town Day. The total cost for 300 copies of the brochure was \$241.21. Vision 2020 will probably cover half the cost. The brochures will also be available at the Res kiosk.

Upcoming **workday and celebration** of the Reservoir being named Arlington Park of the Month (September 20). The major activity of the celebration will be creating temporary art for the park. There was recently a working group meeting that specified the types of artwork to be done and what supplies would be necessary to do them. Lisa suggested that we apply to Food Link to donate snacks. Ann volunteered to help supply drinks. Martine will bring a tent and David will provide tables.

The working suggested that rock painting and messages on ribbons would be doable with the resources at our disposal. Suzanne (?) will bring the rocks and the paints and Cathy will bring plastic sheeting to protect the tables. The second activity, messages on ribbons, will involve tying colorful strips of cloth onto the bridge and fence along the spillway. Martine felt that these would be self-guided activities requiring minimal intervention from the committee. The ribbons will be left on the bridge and fence for about a month. There was also an idea to build a temporary arbor that could be decorated with grasses and other plant material cut from the garden. David thought that Martine and Christina should work out the specifications for the arbor.

David reminded us that ACMI will be covering the event. We decided that it would be best if they appeared in the late morning after the artwork is well along. David suggested that the birders

who use the reservoir might like to participate. We thought that it might be interesting to post a list of the birds recently sighted in the area. [Karsten Hartel provided such a list that was made available at the event and also at the kiosk – DEW.] Martine suggested another activity might be picking pods off the milkweed that is taking over sections of the garden. David added that this event should balance work and play.

Water Chestnut harvesting this autumn. Michael suggested that we could harvest some of the water chestnuts after the water in the reservoir is lowered. We discussed why the mechanical harvesting was so much less effective this year. We decided that we should write a letter of concern to the DPW. David told us that the Conservation Commission has been trying to get money from Lexington to supplement what Arlington spends on the harvesting, hopefully leading to a more thorough job. We decided that this committee should write a letter to the Conservation Commission and the Open Space Committee outlining the condition of the Reservoir. Michael thought that the most efficient time to do the hand harvesting is in mid-June. At this point, David suggested that we postpone further consideration of this topic until a subsequent meeting.

[Subsequent to our meeting, Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA) has held some corporate (only) WC harvesting events on 9/23 & 9/25. They have expressed interest in a possible public Spring event next year. DEW.]

Fall party. We decided that mid-November (14 or 15) would be a good time for the fall Reservoir Committee Party.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm
These minutes were recorded by Stephan Miller
Edited by David White on 9/28/15.