



Reservoir Committee of Envision Arlington

Date: Tuesday, November 16, 2021.

Time: 7:30 PM.

Location: Via Zoom

Attendees: Michael Harris, David White, Cathy Garnett, George Stephans, Michael Ratner, Stephan Miller, Johanna Meyer

Agenda –

1. Observations: Water chestnuts seem overwhelming this year and the water is very low. More than twenty swans were seen as well as small ducks, Mallards, Canadian geese, herons, and a green warbler. There seem to be new groups walking the path including two birding groups taking photos and a painting class.

2. September meeting notes accepted.

3. Workday report: We had more than 10 Boston Area Returned Peace Corp Volunteers and Boston Volunteers dug up grasses, replanted, cut invasive species, and picked up trash. We need more formal volunteer management, the proper tools for the task-top of grasses purchase tools.

4. Garden report and plans. We need 2-3 people for moving the grasses, one digging a hole for planting, 1-2 carrying water for the planting hole those are just for moving plants. We need to be thinning out grasses, pulling up the old fence, looking after the invasive species at the back of the spillway and next to the shade garden. We could also consider trash pick up through the back woods near Old Colonial Village and on the path behind Drake Village along Mill Stream.

We would like to see pavers, like the ones in the spillway, for the end of the spill way over to the Hurd field bridge on that sharp left turn entering from Hurd field. With this being the new entrance from the bike path, part of the Hurd Field development, the sign and area could be spruced up.

5. Volunteer recruitment: We have 14 Boston Volunteers signed up for Saturday Gardening Day with an expectation that ½ or less will show up. The weather is going to be 40 degrees at this point so the work will be some clearing of weeds or grasses, cutting of invasive species and trash pickup. Possibly some replanting of grasses if we clear some.

6. Master plan work updates- The fence around the Habitat Garden is complete. The perimeter path out to the berm has been started. The playground is nearly finished. Current work is on the installation of the benches and structures in the beach area.

7. Annual report ideas- Mentioning the new volunteer recruiting of groups concept. Reaching out to network with different groups looking for opportunities, such as invasive species work or trash pick up. We should mention the boat launch created with water chestnut harvesting in mind. We were active with on going advice and suggestions with feedback on the masterplan.

8. Next meeting dates – Jan 18th for annual report review,

9. Workdays (Saturday after committee meeting)–

a. Next one March 23 for grass cutting and clearing, April

10. Other matters. We are interested in clearing the bittersweet near the shady garden side into the woods. We also would like to see more trash picked up along Mill river and the woods beyond the shady garden to Old Colonial Village.