



Reservoir Committee of Envision Arlington

Draft Meeting Notes April for comment

Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2023

Time: 7:30 PM - 8:15 PM

Location: Via Zoom

Attended: Johanna Meyer, David White, Stephan Miller, Jennifer Tidwell, Michael Ratner, George Stephans, Yujia Wang, Isabella Jardine, Liz Lawrence

Agenda–

1. *Check-ins and Observations from around the Res*

- a. The Reservoir's water level has risen, and fewer swans than expected have been spotted. Present wildlife includes ducks, turtles, herons, and an eagle (regarding the latter, only one has been spotted). Additionally, Service Berries are blooming.
- b. There is a concern about the spreading of tree vine Poison Ivy. Since it is not an invasive species, it has primarily been left to grow. Some treatment has been taken to reduce it in the past, but it is still very prominent and growing.
- c. The invasive species of garlic mustard and oriental bittersweet are present.

2. *Review previous meeting notes*

- a. Meeting notes from the last meeting were approved.

3. *Habitat Garden*

- a. Garden update
 - i. Jennifer plans to go down in the next few days to see how things are coming in and check the water situation.
- b. More plantings
 - i. For more plantings, there are sedges and violets. Volunteers will need to prepare to put in seeds.
- c. Watering
 - i. With planting the seeds, it has been recommended that the Committee implement a watering schedule, for which a signup sheet will be sent out via email. Volunteers will be assigned to a week and water the seeds twice a week (weeks will be split if necessary). NB: Immediately after the seeds are put in, they will need *daily* watering until they pop up from the soil.

4. Invasive Plant Control

- a. Invasive land plants – garlic mustard, oriental bittersweet, JKW
 - i. Yujia wrote a blog entry summarizing the events of last Saturday's work day, where Scouts helped to cut Oriental bittersweet, rake up water chestnut seeds and plant native species in the garden.
 - ii. Depending on the number of volunteers for the upcoming workday (April 22nd), the plan is to continue with invasive control, doing a sweep for Garlic mustard.
 - iii. There is a concern about how to deal with Japanese Knotweed effectively. It was suggested to cover the invaded area with a tarp or bags, but it was noted that it is hard to address when the plant covers a large area and can spread underground.
- b. WC plant harvesting
 - i. Set for July 9th with Mystic River Watershed Assoc hosting the event.

5. Workdays

- a. **April 22nd - EARTH DAY Kickoff** for Ecofest- invasives Removal:
Garlic mustard, Oriental Bittersweet.
Additional plans for gardening work putting down seeds as well as
Cutting and clearing the grasses in the garden

6. Committee Roles

- a. Reporters - Yujia Wang and Isabella Jardine can both help with social media outreach.

7. Future Activities

- a. Recruitment efforts
 - i. Members of the RPCV are coming to help on May 20th. The Committee needs to reach out to other groups regarding summer activities (Harvard Women are unavailable; unsure about the Oberlin group)
- b. Next meeting – May 16
- c. Next Work Day - April 22, then May 20 is (plant sale is also May 20)

8. *Other*

- a. Johanna has recommended that the section for ‘Check-ins with other committees’ be formally incorporated into future agendas.
- b. Envision sent out questions which will be sent to Committee members for comments. Although this subject was discussed previously, the questions have been revised so that they will be sent again for review.
- c. Be aware of other events:
 - i. Saturday is Alewife Clean Up (9:30 AM)
 - ii. April 22th: Garlic Mustard Pull
- d. To Do/Concerns:
 - i. Advertisement has to be put together for the Earth Day workday
 - ii. The remaining old fence (green wire) from the top of the shady side garden needs to be removed
 - iii. There is a concern about the security of the Girl Scout Pollinator Signs, as someone has been cutting them down. It was suggested that they be screwed into the fence poles. However, there were questions about it shortening the life of the posts and possible damage to the screws. Additionally, the screws have been broken in the past and may not correctly attach the signs. It is possible to return them to the Scouts, as previously discussed.
 - iv. David is in communication with the Town about removing the brush pile and getting wood chips for pathways. It was confirmed that no leaf mulch was requested, and further Committee discussion concluded that it was unnecessary to order leaf mulch.