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08/27/2013 Minutes

VISION 2020 ENVIRONMENT TASK GROUP

RESERVOIR COMMITTEE

AUGUST 27, 2013 MEETING

Town Hall Annex, First Floor

Approved 9/24/13

In attendance: Cathy Garnett, Martine Gougault, Jane Howard, Elizabeth Karpati, Ann LeRoyer, David White.

Facilitator: David White **Minutes:** Elizabeth Karpati

2013 meetings: 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, September 24, October 22, November 26
 Town Hall Annex, First Floor Conference Room.

- The **minutes** of the previous meeting were accepted as presented.
- **Town Day**, September 21: Martine is planning an activity for children, possibly in cooperation with Andrea Golden. She also has a display board. We can also display the binder of Rachel's pictures of flowers in the habitat garden.
- **Habitat Garden:** David will talk to the president of the Garden Club to get our garden included in next year's judging for the best public plantings, which are mostly on traffic islands. We should also put up a "Maintained by" sign like those on traffic islands. Might it discourage thieves? Martine plans to get more honeysuckles for the garden via Mary Gilbert from Project Native.
- The **workday** on August 18 concentrated on the "island" by the parking lot. Japanese knotweed and poison ivy were cut and the area covered with a black tarp topped with wood chips to prevent re-growth from the roots. Nevertheless, some small JKW plants are already peeking out from under the edges, so continued maintenance will be required. Next year some surplus grasses or flowers could be transplanted from the habitat garden. It would be good to have a trash barrel near this area although there is now one at the other end of the parking lot; Jane will ask Teresa (DPW) for one.
- Some shrubs originally planted alongside the **path** between the "island" and the garden as part of the new spillway project have died; Martine suggested replacing them with witch hazels.
- Jane is about to meet with the new athletic director at the High School about getting the cross-country team involved in helping to spread **wood chips on the trail** around the Res and possibly other maintenance like removing invasives or pruning overhanging branches.
- Developing an overall **maintenance plan** for the Res area was suggested. Some years ago the Open Space Committee did a set of maintenance plans which included the Res, but these have not been looked at recently.
- **Water chestnuts:** The first round of harvesting was done earlier in the summer; the second is taking place this week. The

beach is already closed but the water level has been kept high to allow the harvesting boat to operate. It cannot get very close to the shore, so Michael Ratner plans to do hand harvesting of what is left. A group to help him could be organized next week.

There are other invasive weeds growing in the water as well. In the 2012 report Aquatic Control Technologies identified 11 species in the Res. Water Chestnuts and coontail are the dominant species growing there.

- **Covenant School:** David and Martine will meet with the kindergarten teacher about how the children could get involved.

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