

Arlington Reservoir Committee

Arlington Vision 2020 Environmental Group

2017 Annual Report

2017 was a busy year for the Arlington Reservoir Committee. The Wildlife Habitat Garden had its seventh growing season. The committee continued our activities at the “island” in the parking lot and planted, or transplanted, a number of new plants this year. The committee had help from many people on public workdays - and from many volunteers at other times as well. The committee welcomes schools, community groups, and others to participate in the committee's growth and evolution.

Water chestnut mechanical harvesting continued this summer under the management of the Arlington DPW. In addition the Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA) held corporate and public hand harvesting events in the spring and fall. The committee hopes to increase these volunteer efforts in the future.

This year Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding was obtained for developing a Master Plan for the Arlington Reservoir-- the first step of a major capital improvement project. The goal is to assess all aspects of the Reservoir, considering both terrestrial and aquatic issues from both environmental and recreational perspectives. This project is being led by the Park and Recreation Commission with participation of the Conservation Commission and the Vision 2020 Reservoir Committee. Weston & Sampson, the firm that managed the dam restoration work in 2006, was chosen as the consultant for this work. In the summer/fall of this year W&S carried out a number of assessments of the Reservoir area including a full land survey. Some preliminary findings and recommendations were presented at public meetings in the late fall.

An application for the next phase of CPA funding in 2018 has been submitted. Most of this funding request for phase 1 implementation will be for the water treatment system for the beach area which is old and close to failure. The intent for the future phases is to address some of the broader environmental issues. A full report will be released by Weston & Sampson early in 2018. Public documents related to this master planning process can be found at the Reservoir committee website: <http://arlingtonreservoir.org/reservoir-master-plan/>

More information about the committee’s activities, along with photos, can be found at the Reservoir website: www.arlingtonreservoir.org, where you can also join the Reservoir email list.

David White for the Reservoir Committee of Arlington Vision 2020