

Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows
Steering Committee
February 27, 2007
Approved 3/27/07

Present: David White, Mike Tabaczynski, Sandra Ruggiero, John Bartenstein, Don Miller

1. Minutes of the January meeting were approved with the revisions suggested by John in an email prior to the meeting. The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, March 27.
2. Distribution of the FoAGM annual report has been completed as planned.
3. At the recent annual meeting of Arlington Land Trust, Mike gave a brief summary of FoAGM's accomplishments of the past year, complete with slides.
4. Sandra reported that vernal pool instruction was given to two classrooms in January. She and her high school students are now preparing on a proposal to create kits for instruction in vernal pools.
5. David received a response from Lexington Christian Academy to his letter seeking an LCA person to become involved in FoAGM. He has not yet received a response from Waldorf School, but he will follow up with Susan Cody.
6. Additional Children's Educational Programs: We are interested in identifying organizations which work with children which would be interested in doing programs at AGM related to nature or conservation. To encourage such programs, FoAGM could provide modest financial assistance for supplies which might be needed to make such a program possible. Funds would not be provided to pay for anyone's labor. Sandra's vernal pool education program is an excellent example of the type of program we wish to encourage. It was agreed that any publicity about this endeavor should be directed to such organizations, not to the general public through newspapers or other media. Sandra will look for examples of what other organizations have done with regard to such programs. We plan to discuss this more fully at our next meeting.
7. There was discussion of potential FoAGM programs in connection with the 200th anniversary of the Town of Arlington. Discussion will continue at future meetings.

8. Mike knows of no response to the letter sent to the Brandon Street area neighbors last November concerning the big hole and dumping on AGM property. Mike is looking into the creation of signs prohibiting dumping, and he will give thought to the organization of this spring's effort to refill the hole.
9. Japanese Knotweed Project. Since Fall is the best time to plant grass, we will wait until then to pull up the remaining black plastic and sow seed. In the cut-cut-cut area, we will continue cutting the JKW this spring and summer, then in the fall consider if it makes sense to apply black plastic to that area. It was agreed that student volunteers should be used to dig out the root crowns in the cut-cut-cut area to the west of the black plastic area. Sandra will ask her students to do some of the root crown work.
10. Grassland Restoration: John called Harvey Cote regarding areas of AGM which used to be grassland and now are forested, and he showed photographs which Harvey provided. We discussed the creation of a restoration plan. Belmont has obtained a grant to do such a plan for Rock Meadow. The Steering Committee will look at the grassland area together between the March and April meetings, and we will re-read Frances Clark's report on AGM. It was agreed that any such efforts should be focused on the woodcock area on the northern side of the wetland.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Miller

DRAFT written 3-12-07

Minor edits by David 3/13/07