

Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows

Steering Committee

March 27, 2007

Approved 4/17/07

Present: David White, Mike Tabaczynski, Sandra Ruggiero, Laurel Carpenter, Don Miller, John Bartenstein (at meeting end time).

1. Minutes of the February meeting were approved with correction of one name change.
2. The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, April 24 (subsequently changed to April 17).
3. Financial Report: Nothing new to report.
4. Vernal Pool Educational Programs will be held May 10 and 17 starting at 10:45 am. This will be the field trip portion of the program. Waldorf High School 11th-graders will teach two classes of Brackett School second graders each of the two days.
5. Educational Mini-Grant Programs: There was discussion of the instruction packet to be developed to send to teachers and scout leaders. Packets used by other programs were reviewed and discussed. It was agreed that:
 1. The FoAGM application packet will be sent to only teachers and scout group leaders the first year. FoAGM will not submit publicity about the program to the newspapers (at least not until after the supported projects have been completed.)
 2. Applicants would be teachers, adult leaders of scout groups, or high school students with a specified adult advisor co-signing the application.
 3. The application form will indicate that financial assistance is only for supplies, not for the services of anyone.
 4. In order to encourage the educational use of AGM and awareness of it as a resource, every approved project must have a field component which occurs at Arlington's Great Meadows.
 5. The packet might give some examples of possible projects, perhaps including specific mention of the vernal pools project in the schools with high school students teaching elementary students.

David agreed to write a first draft of the packet, using the Virginia packet and perhaps one other as a model.

6. Roland (Boot) Boutwell Nature Walk: It was agreed that because of Boot's busy schedule in the coming months, **Don** will suggest to him that we schedule a weekend day in the fall for this walk. We appreciate Boot's offer to lead such a walk at AGM.

7. Arlington's 200th Anniversary Celebration: It was proposed that FoAGM arrange a walk concerning the history of Arlington's Great Meadows. **Mike** knows someone who leads history walks and might be willing to do it.
8. Brandon Street Hole: For the project to re-fill the hole near Brandon Street, Mike has approached a Lexington High School teacher who is willing to identify students interested in earning community service hours. **Mike** will suggest some dates to him.
9. Signs Prohibiting Dumping: The Committee approved up to \$250 for metal signs and the wooden posts to which they will be attached. Four will be installed initially at the entrances to AGM at the following sites: Brandon Street, Sheila Road, Emerson Gardens, and the entrance from the nursing home parking lot (with all signs being on AGM property). Two more signs will be made at this time for future use, making a total of six.
10. Invasive Plant Actions: Sandra will have her high school students work on removal of the JKW root crowns and attached rhizomes on Thursday, April 26, from 8:45am to 11:45am. (In the previous meeting's minutes, it was decided that such work should begin in the area west of the black plastic.) **Don** will get together with **John** to plan the rest of the year's JKW control program (and garlic mustard control at the JKW site).
11. Grassland Stewardship: The Steering Committee will have a field trip on **Saturday morning, April 7**, beginning at 9:00am, to observe the situation in the grassland. We will meet at the far end of the nursing home parking lot.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Miller.

Edits by David 3/31/07.