

Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows
Steering Committee
September 27, 2006
Approved 11/15/06

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

The next two meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, November 15 and Monday, December 11, both at 7:30pm.

1. The financial report: The state is suggesting it won't pay a portion of the trails grant because of the timing of their receiving receipts for the materials purchased. The Steering Committee is confident this can be worked out. Total FoAGM assets are \$6,902 currently, with \$1,419 anticipated from the state grant.
2. Payment was approved for the \$85 expenditure which Steve Fleming made for food expense for the day of bridge-building over Monroe Brook. It was agreed that Steve's lack of a receipt will not prevent him from being paid, but Mike will ask him for a written note stating the amount of the expenses he incurred. Those of us who were there expressed appreciation for the very good lunch.
3. Two more short sections of boardwalk in AGM were built on Saturday, September 23 and Wednesday, September 27.
4. Trail trimming may happen this coming Saturday (9/30) if enough volunteers are available.
5. The Committee authorized up to \$100 for reproduction of the large maps of AGM created by Mike.
6. Nature Walks: Andrea will lead a nature walk on Sunday, October 15, 1:30pm to 4:00pm. Possible topics of future walks are mycology (fungi) and plant communities. Sandra will ask Walden Keeping Track (WKT) to lead a tracking walk this winter.
7. Vernal Pool Education: Sandra and her high school students will continue their project to teach elementary school students about vernal pools in the coming year. Four classes of second-graders will participate in the classes and in the field trips in the spring. The Waldorf students will also work on a grant proposal to submit to FoAGM to create kits for schools to learn about and explore vernal pools on their own. This could expand the program and allow it to be self sustaining.

8. The letter to be sent to certain AGM abutters about the huge hole and dumping was discussed. We want to have the hole filled back in before next Spring, but after this year's herbaceous plants die back to the ground. It was agreed that the letter should go out soon. Mike will call Karen Mullens of the Lexington Conservation Commission and ask that it go out on ConCom letterhead.
9. Japanese Knotweed Project. David will order the grass seed mix. We will sow the seed on the eastern half of the area now covered with black plastic, because the eastern half has undergone more aggressive removal of rhizomes. Saturday, October 7, is the tentative day for preparing the soil and sewing the seed.
10. An Arlington selectman (Clarissa Rowe) has expressed interest publicly in selling AGM to the Town of Lexington in order to obtain funds for purchase the Mugar property near Route 2. A Steering Committee member has been told by an informed Lexingtonian that AGM is not high on Lexington's list of priorities. However, it might become high priority if pressure mounts to develop upland portions of the land.
11. Plans for the Annual Report. David will circulate last year's report as a model. The following will take responsibility for sections of the report:
 - Mike: Resources
 - Sandra and Laurel: Education
 - Invasives: Don
12. Long-term goals. The following were discussed:
 - Signage and trails plan
 - Expanding educational programs
 - Continuing the path around the east side of AGM
 - Recruiting more people

The meeting adjourned at 9:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Miller (with edits by Sandra & David)