

Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows
Steering Committee
February 27, 2008
Approved 4/1/2008

Present: David White, Mike Tabaczynski, John Bartenstein, Sandra Ruggiero, Don Miller; Guest: Corinna Vanderspek

The minutes of last month's meeting will be reviewed at our next meeting.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 1, 7:30pm.

Educational Mini-Grant Program: Sandra proposed that the mini-grant package for prospective grantees be sent out in March and then to the same people again in September. This will give teachers and others a chance to plan ahead for the Fall. It was approved.

Our guest, Corinna, is a member of the Friends of Robbins Farm Park and takes courses at the New England Wild Flower Society. A resident of Arlington, she expressed interest FoAGM's activities. With regard to finding volunteers at Arlington High School, she said AHS no longer has a volunteer coordinator. One should go to the school secretary and fill out a form. Principal Skidmore must approve the application. The chair of the science department has left and has not yet been replaced. The "Save Club" has environmental projects and might be a source of volunteers. **Corinna** will look into it. There continues to be a community service requirement for AHS students.

Annual Report: Details of the report's distribution were discussed. **David** will bring more copies to the next meeting.

Habitat Restoration Project: Don discussed details of the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) of the US Department of Agriculture. The deadline for submitting applications for this year has passed, and future funds depend upon the program being included in the next Farm Bill. As Mike suggested, **Don** will prepare a plan of steps to be accomplished over the coming months in order to be ready for submission of an application for the next round of funding. (Any such submission, and the restoration project itself, would require prior approval by the Arlington Board of Selectmen.)

Brush Mower: Mike reported that the Lexington Stewards are going to purchase a "Brush Hog" mower for the Town of Lexington. The possibility of using this at AGM for restoring and maintaining habitat was discussed.

Nature Walk: On May 21 at AGM, Boot Boutwell will lead a nature walk co-sponsored by the New England Wild Flower Society and the Audubon Habitat

sanctuary. There will be a charge for the walk and a limit on the number of participants. It was agreed that **Don** will ask Boot for the opportunity to tell the attendees about AGM and FoAGM at the start of the walk.

FoAGM-sponsored Nature Walks: Andrea will lead a woodcock walk at AGM on Friday, March 21 with a rain date of the following Friday. **Don** will consider leading one or more nature walks this Spring. Laurel might be available to help. We talked about having a series of walks one every several weeks to observe the changes that take place ("Spring Comes to AGM") .

Kiosks: Our kiosks have been bare or nearly so in recent months. Don suggested notices of what is currently visible at AGM, such as plants coming into flower. Photographs of such phenomena would be a big addition.

Invasive Plants: On Monday, May 5, **Sandra** will have her class dig out JKW root crowns from 9:00 or 9:15am to 11:30am. **Don** will attend, also John. Also perhaps a further dig out two weeks later with volunteers.

Phragmites: Don suggested a study of the extent to which phragmites is expanding each year in AGM. He will consider a method for doing this.

Mini-Grant Payment: We approved a payment in advance for the previously approved mini-grant.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Miller