

Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows
Steering Committee
June 24, 2008
Approved 7/22/08

Present: David White, Mike Tabaczynski, John Bartenstein, Sandra Ruggiero, Laurel Carpenter, Don Miller; Guests: Dave Pearson, Alice Weaver

The minutes of the meeting of May 14 were approved with several corrections.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 22 at 7:30pm.

Election of Officers: Although the minutes of 2007 do not mention the election of David White as Chair and Mike Tabaczynski as Fiscal Coordinator, it is the best recollection of the members of the Steering Committee that they were indeed re-elected to their respective positions roughly one year ago. It was moved and seconded that David and Mike again be re-elected to their positions for the June 1, 2008 through May 31, 2009 organization year. SC member Laurel Carpenter was elected to an additional one-year term ending May 31, 2009, the date on which all other SC member terms end.

There was discussion of the process for selecting Steering Committee members and the criteria used for such selection. Relevant portions of the FoAGM by-laws were reviewed.

Invasive Plants: Guest Alice Weaver indicated an interest in the control of invasive plants. The Committee shared the history of our project to control Japanese knotweed over the past three years and the current status. John has weed-whacked the east portion of the plot on a regular basis. The central plot includes the two areas covered by black plastic in the past, one of which is still covered. The west portion has been cut by hand so as to allow other plants to grow and (possibly) take over parts of the plot. Currently there are some small areas there which have no JKW shoots, but most of the west side still has JKW growing. The only progress seems to be that the diameter of the shoots is much smaller, though there are more of them. Overall, on the west side there is less biomass of JKW than previously. On May 31 adult and high school volunteers dug out a large number of remaining rhizomes on the west side and pulled out new JKW shoots growing in the formerly-covered center portion. Our main goal in this project has been to "get the job done". Doing research on which methods work best has been a secondary goal. It was suggested that we do some assessment at the site of which methods have worked best, including digging to see the state of rhizomes still in the ground. A date will be discussed at the next meeting.

Botany Along the Boardwalk: Don offered to list the species of plants, particularly shrubs, along the Lily Pond Boardwalk so as to help people learn to identify them. He will think about a way to have the list give an indication of the relative location of each species along the boardwalk.

East Village Fair: It was agreed that FoAGM should have a booth at the East Village Fair on October 18th. **Laurel, David, Don** agreed to help to arrange and staff it. In a recent year Laurel led brief forays into AGM from the Fair. (That morning **Don** will lead one of the Third Saturday Nature Walks from the nursing home parking lot, but he expects to be available by 12:30pm.)

Lexington Fire Department: David, Mike, John, and Don met with representatives of the Fire Chief to discuss improving access to various parts of AGM by firefighters and their vehicles. Orders for Knox-Box locks for the chained entrances need to be made through the fire department. **Mike** will come up with a proposed date for widening the fire truck access routes. **John** will send a letter of appreciation to the fire captain.

Monitoring Regrowth of the Fire Area: **Laurel** and **Don** will make notes on what they observe as re-growth occurs. **David** will take photographs of it.

Habitat Restoration Proposal: There was discussion of the proposal from Jeff Collins. **David, Mike,** and **Don** will meet on July 7th with as many other members of the SC as can attend at that time.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Miller

DRAFT 7-22-08