

**Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows
Steering Committee
June 16, 2009
Approved 7/8/09**

Present: David White, Sandra Ruggiero, John Bartenstein, Mike Tabaczynski, Sandy Vorce, Don Miller. Guest: Lolly Bennett.

Minutes: The minutes of May 19, 2009 were approved with John's revisions.

Next Meeting: The next meeting, *as subsequently rescheduled by email*, will be Wednesday, July 8.

Children's Nature Event: Don and Lolly Bennett did a field trip at AGM to discuss locations and arrangements for a children's event. It is important to not have too many children per leader. It is best to have parents register their child(ren) ahead of time. On the day of the event, if there are spaces available, walk-ins would be welcome. Most children's nature events are planned for children of the same age, such as a classroom of children from a school. An event with a wide range of ages of children would present some difficulties. Needed is a leader who is experienced with 4-to-6-year-old children; Lolly could lead the older (7-10) children. The program could be general ("Come and experience nature at AGM") or have a more specific theme. Don and Lolly will make arrangements and inform the SC of the date.

Nominating Committee: The one-year term for all nominations is June 1 through May 31. The committee, Sandra and Don, recommended nomination of all six current SC members (David, Mike, John, Sandra, Laurel, Don) plus Sandy Vorce. Laurel sent word asking that her nomination for another year be deferred for a month or two; it was agreed Laurel will continue to be a member of the Steering Committee for a few months until she decides on another full term. The SC voted to elect for a one-year term David White, Mike Tabaczynski, Sandra Ruggiero, John Bartenstein, Don Miller, and Sandy Vorce as Steering Committee Members. The newly-elected SC elected David White as Chair and Mike Tabaczynski as Fiscal Officer.

Bylaws Revision: The proposed bylaws revision regarding public involvement in the SC (as emailed to the Members prior to the meeting) was approved.

Grassland Restoration: The public meeting for the restoration project will be held on July 14, at 7:30pm. **Don** will contact Follen Church to arrange rental of its Community Center room for the meeting. **Don** will draft a press release for the two local papers and the Globe and send it to David. **David** will revise as necessary and email to the SC members. **Don** will send the final version of it to Frances Clark. At the public meeting, David will speak first for five or ten minutes, giving the context for the meeting, and then introduce Jeff Collins, who will give a presentation with slides for roughly 30 minutes. There will then be opportunity for questions and comments. The meeting will end by 9:00pm. Jeff

Collins has asked for suggestions of points to raise. **David** will spread the word through various Arlington connections. **Mike** will confirm that Jeff has a digital projector. **Don** will ask if there is a screen or suitable white wall at Follen.

John presented aerial photographs of AGM over the decades which he had obtained. The photos confirm that the proposed restoration area consisted of a much more extensive grassland and that trees have grown into much of the former grassland area. In other words, this truly is a proposal to restore what was previously there.

Harvey Cote will be invited to the meeting. **We will ask him** if he would like to provide several photographs of the restoration in the past. Would Harvey be willing to take photos of the public meeting?

Outdoor Sculpture Project: Sandra's draft letter to the students was reviewed, and revisions were agreed upon. **Sandra** will send the letter to them.

Japanese Knot Weed Project: John reported that JKW stalks on the East side of the plot are able to be pulled out relatively easily now. We need volunteer labor. **Don** will arrange for volunteers to help him with the West side.

Plant Specimens: It was agreed that Don may gather plants at AGM to make pressed botanical specimens, so long as the plants are not rare or endangered.

Bee Hive Project: No further news.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Miller

DRAFT: 6-23-09