

**Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows
Steering Committee
September 8, 2009
Approved 10/20/09**

Present: David White, Mike Tabaczynski, John Bartenstein, Sandy Vorce, Don Miller.

Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting are in the process of being located.

Next Meeting: A tentative meeting date was selected, *but subsequently changed to Tuesday October 20 after conferring with all SC members.* Sandy Vorce has offered to host.

Meadow Restoration Project: **Mike** and **Don** will type their respective notes of the public meeting which was held at Follen Community Church. **Don** will reply to the letter he received from Harvey Cote about the project.

Sandy agreed to contact contractor Chris Polatin for dates for a walk-through with SC members to obtain his thoughts about the project and estimates of his fee (high and low estimates). She said that Polatin did the restoration project for Habitat, partially funded by a ten-year grant from WHIP. Habitat has volunteers do some of the work and Polatin do the rest. Polatin also did the Rock Meadow project in Belmont. The times for doing the project so as to disturb wildlife the least would be early spring (April) or August (?).

John suggested we have two plans, one assuming low funding (or no grant) and one with a grant which would pay most or all of the project. The two plans might cover different amounts of land and use different amounts of volunteer versus professional time.

Sandy added that Polatin is willing to negotiate the fee and help us come up with a plan which will work best with our funds and availability of volunteers. Sandy said having the whole thing done by a contractor such as Polatin would make the land look terrible at first, then vegetation would grow in and make it look natural. Having volunteers do it would have less of a visible impact. She mentioned that Massachusetts Audubon has a wood chipper. David said we will need good cost estimates when we seek approval for the project from the Arlington BOS, even though it is not expected that we would seek funds from them.

Trail Clearing: It was agreed that the first priority is the clearing needed to improved access by the Lexington Fire Department. **Mike** will come up with a date for work on fire-related road-widening.

Knot Weed Area: It is time to pull up the black plastic, which has been in place for four years, and plant seeds to restore the area. It was confirmed that we

started the JKW project in the spring of 2005. **David** agreed to get the seed mixture he had proposed and also the salt marsh hay. Up to \$100 was authorized for this purpose by the SC. **John** will select some dates for a work party to carry it out. *It was later determined that the best time to plant the seeds would be in the spring.*

Educational Programs: **Don** will ask Dr. Pfister to lead a “fungi walk” this October. **David** will contact Andrea regarding an insect walk, the details to be left up to her – age range, timing, etc. **Don** offered to help Andrea with this program if she wishes.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Miller

With some edits by David White on 9/8/09.