

Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows
Steering Committee
February 23, 2010
Approved 3/23/10

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

Minutes: The minutes of the minutes of December 22, 2010 were approved as revised by John. For the record, the January 19 meeting of the SC was a working session to edit the Annual Report. No minutes were necessary, and none were recorded.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 23, at Sandra's home.

Annual Report Distribution: The report should be emailed to anyone for whom email would be appropriate. Major donors to FoAGM should receive copies of the annual report, too. **David** will send a link to each SC member through which we can each obtain an electronic version of the report. **David** will also send the e-version of the cover letter

Meadow Restoration. A possible new funding source for this project is a program funded by FEDEX, which appears to be oriented more toward urban sites. This year's deadline for submission of applications was February 11.

David suggested we determine how much we want to accomplish in this project during 2010, then request permission for that amount of work from the Arlington Board of Selectmen. **Sandy** will find out requirements for use of herbicides – notification of the public, how much flagging for how long, etc. She said we wouldn't need to paint pine stumps, for they don't re-sprout [*see note from Don below**.*] We should spread seed where we have pulled out shrubs or trees.

Sandy said if we were to have a prescribed burn, we would need to clear-cut the area first. Mike said there are only two options for the cut trees and shrubs: either chip them or burn them. Sandy said fall is the best time to do the cutting. If we are to daub the cut stumps with herbicide, it is best to daub them within an hour of the cutting. John said one possibility might be to use herbicide in some areas, but not in others.

Invasive Plant Management: **David** will obtain spring seed mix for the knotweed area.

Education Events:

Third Saturday Walks. **Don** will continue this series beginning in April. **Sandy** said she would be willing to lead one of them and will do a couple walks with Don. **Don** and **Sandy** will think about how best to advertise the walks, there being a concern about having more people than we can deal with effectively if there is too much publicity. Last year the series was publicized through the

FoAGM group email list, a flier on each of the two kiosks, and mention in the Arlington Land Trust email newsletter. Newspaper notices were not used last year.

Tracking Event for this Winter? Sandra said that tracking expert Lydia Rogers remarked after last year's event that AGM had changed much since her first tracking event a few years ago. Lydia said it is more of a dog park now, with less indications of wildlife than before. Sandra suggested we do research on the extent to which dogs are overwhelming the wildlife, possibly involving Walden Keeping Track. There was agreement that we will not do a tracking event for the public this winter.

Butterfly Walk: Mike will ask Tom Whelan to lead a walk with regard to butterflies.

Entomology Study of AGM: Don was given permission to collect and preserve specimens of insect life at AGM.

Annual Meeting of Arlington Land Trust. The SC thanked John for an excellent presentation about FoAGM's activities in 2009.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Miller

****Note from Don on 3-20-10:** According to Bernd Heinrich in *Reading the Forested Landscape*, p. 30, "Pitch pine ... is the only conifer in central New England that can stump-sprout after fire or logging."