

**Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows
Steering Committee Meeting - March 23, 2010
Approved 5/4/10**

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

Minutes: The minutes of February 23, 2010 were approved with several edits.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 4, @ 7:30pm at Sandy V's.

FoAGM Nature Programs

Third Saturday Walks: Information on the walks should be sent to those on the Arlington Land Stewards list.

Spring Butterfly Walk with Tom Whelan: Scheduled for Saturday, April 24, 10:00am.

Ponding Event: Sandra, Sandy, and Don will do some "ponding" together to prepare for a public event. **Don** will suggest dates. **David** will contact Andrea about doing this again.

Birding Walk: **David** will check with Menotomy Bird Club. **Mike** will see if CLC would be interested in sharing a birding event.

Other Groups' Events

Habitat Trails Day: Scheduled for Saturday, April 24.

Arlington Eco-Fest: Sunday, May 2 at Town Hall, 11:00am to 3:00pm. We should have FoAGM information there including Third Saturday fliers. **David** will send the Eco-Fest flier to all SC members. Don will not be available that day.

FoAGM Management Activities

Meadow Restoration: It was agreed that we will use no herbicide the first year. At some point in the fall we will have a whole-day volunteer program to get the restoration under way. This could become an annual event. Mike said the "slash" can be burned on site, but the fire department would have to be there. **Mike** will find out how much the fire department would charge. **Sandy** will find out how much a chipper would cost if we decide to use one. Would we put chips on the trails? No – it adds nutrients and makes nearby trees grow more quickly. Another possibility is leaving the slash in brush piles. It was agreed that October would be the best month. **Mike** will suggest a date in October for the volunteer day. Since work will not be done near any wetland, this project will not require ConCom approval. We should identify the plants in the meadow before beginning the restoration project, perhaps by university researchers or a New England Wild Flower Society certificate project.

Knotweed Project: We will need two pounds of seed mixture to seed the area still covered with plastic. **David** will tell Sandy which mixture we'll need, and **Sandy** will obtain it. **Mike** will arrange reimbursement for her. On Wednesday, May 5, **Sandra** will have her students (14 of them) come and work on it.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Miller