

**Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows
Steering Committee
July 20, 2010
Approved 8/24/10**

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

Minutes: The minutes of June 8, 2010 were approved after the filling of one blank.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 24. **David** will check this date with John.

AGM Sign and Boardwalk Work. The sign near the nursing home trail head has broken off at the bottom of its two posts and is now at Mike's home. **Mike** is arranging for volunteers to reinstall it. **Mike** is arranging for the same men to replace weakened cross-boards on the Lily Pond Boardwalk. They will determine the number of cross-boards needing replacement.

Meadow Restoration Project. The group reviewed the first draft of the proposal to the Arlington Board of Selectmen. It was agreed that the submission should include a cover letter and perhaps two pages of detail, less than the draft. The proposal should emphasize issues about which selectmen are apt to be particularly concerned, such as the safety of volunteers working on the property, impact on neighboring homes, impact on the environment of AGM itself, what will be done with the trees and shrubs which are cut (the "slash"), and so on. The proposal should seek approval for the whole project, but also indicate the steps to be done over the next year (12 months).

Regarding the slash, the proposal should leave open the possibility of using any of the methods we might use, including burning piles of slash on-site with the Lexington Fire Department there to assure it does not get out of control. The proposal will not include the method of a "prescribed burn" of the Entry Meadow for several reasons, including the concerns of abutting neighbors. Regarding timing of the work, the proposal should not limit the work to a specific date or narrow range of dates.

After discussion, it was re-affirmed that we will not use herbicide in this first year. If cutting woody plants without applying herbicide to the stumps is found to be ineffective the first year, the group might decide to use herbicides applied by a licensed applicator in future years. The revised proposal should leave room for this possibility.

The approach to be used in the first year (mostly volunteer labor, relatively little use of contractors) will mean that not all of the areas of Entry Meadow described in Jeff Collins' report will be worked on. The most likely areas this fall are numbers 1, 2, 3, and 5.

David will rewrite the proposal. It will include a cover letter and a briefer text. The Collins report might be attached, or the reader might be referred to the web site.

Trail Signs: Don has walked the trails from the north kiosk to the south kiosk and noted places where trail signs are needed. **Mike** will provide copies of the 11" by 17" map of AGM to Don and David. **Don** will mark the locations on the map and share it with the SC.

Nature Walks

Third Saturday Walk: The July 17 walk had about a dozen participants, including two new people. It went well.

Family Hikes: Plans for such events will not be carried out this year.

Girl Scout Project; Sandra has met with Naomi and discussed the project. Naomi and her mother attended the July 17 walk. Sandra and Don will continue to be available to her as resources.

Knotweed Project: Don has done some knotweed removal on the west side of the plot, but most of it still needs to be done. Further work will await days of cooler temperature.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Miller

DRAFT