

Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows
Steering Committee
Oct. 5, 2010
Approved 11/2/10

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

Minutes: The minutes of Aug. 24, 2010 were approved after a few corrections and additions.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, Nov. 2 at Sandra's at 7:30.

Upland Meadow Restoration: David submitted the Request for Determination of Applicability to the Conservation Commission. There will be a review on Oct. 19th. Mike confirmed that we do not need to notify abutters to do the restoration work. **David** will write a notice for the kiosk that this work will begin on Oct. 23rd and that the resulting slash pile will eventually be disposed of. **Sandy** will check with **Don** about marking the trees that will not be cut after his monthly walk on Oct. 16th and others agreed to help him with that. **Sandy** will accept the offer from high school seniors from Oklahoma to work that day and **David** will accept the offer from the cub scouts. **Mike** will recruit some adults from Citizens for Lexington Conservation (CLC) to help the steering committee supervise all these volunteers. We will meet around 7:45 a.m. to get ready. Volunteers will come at 8:30. **Sandy** will provide some work gloves, **Mike** will bring tools, but all will be invited to bring hand saws and cutters and all will need to bring a water bottle. **Sandy** will get soda and we approved a budget up to \$200 for pizza on the workday. **Sandy** will take pictures to document the event. **Sandra** will bring a first aid kit.

After the work day we will need to get a burn permit and recruit a weekday crew (6-8) to tend a fire to burn the slash pile in November. The suggestion was made that the burn be on top of a buckthorn area. **John** may be available to work on this. He will also speak with the Lexington Fire Department about supervising the burn.

Future funding for Meadow Restoration: There was a discussion of the questions that Heather Ruggiero (Antioch New England graduate student in conservation biology) had asked regarding the grant writing that she is researching and doing. Some minor edits were made to the stated goals and objectives, **Sandy** agreed to send her the Polatin estimate and **Sandra** will respond to Heather's questions. We may need to consider further our metrics in evaluating the restoration.

Invasive Plant Activity: John reported that he and his son, Chris, had cut the Japanese Knotweed area east of the seeded section almost down to Brandon St. He felt that doing this does substantially weaken the plant over time if we can keep it up. Sandra observed that the seeding which we had done in the spring was not particularly successful, perhaps

due to the dry summer. However, the plants that have filled in are dominated by lamb's quarters which will not obscure the view and the JKW has not reinvaded so far.

Trail and Maintenance Work: David will contact Don about signage to mark some of the crucial paths this winter.

Fall and Winter Events: There was interest in scheduling a tracking walk for this winter. **Sandra** will contact Nancy Reilly or Fran Ludwig for this. Sandy also said she could assist.

Girl Scout Project: Sandra reported that she had not had any further update on this project. (Since the meeting, however, Naomi's mother emailed that there was a trial day with some 5th grade girl scouts on Oct. 12. It went very well and after revising her map, Naomi will show the project to Sandra and discuss how it can be put up at the kiosk and on the website.)

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Ruggiero