

Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows
Steering Committee Meeting
May 31, 2011

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

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as modified.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, June 28, 2011 at Don's home in Carlisle.

The 2010 Annual Report. There will be a note thanking Laurel for her five years of SC membership. The report is done; what remains is printing and distribution. David will send around a list with an indication of whether it should be digital or hard copy for each person. If next year is FoAGM's tenth year, we will have a big look-back report. In subsequent years, we will have more concise annual reports than has been our practice to date. It could be, for example, two pages of text which refer back to the web site for more details.

Meadow Restoration: Now in Entry Meadow, nothing is growing where the slash fire was. Woody stems are coming up energetically from stumps or where shrubs were cut. A strategy: Look at what is growing well nearby and plant more of it. John will think about tasks which could be done by volunteers or teams of volunteers. Plugs of grass seedlings could be planted in spots which don't have grass, but these would need water. What to do with the portions of the Entry Meadow area which we did not cut? It was approved that John continue with some cutting on a modest basis; and Don also. John: I'd like us to have a crew of volunteers (perhaps ten people) who would be available to do continuing maintenance work outside the (newly-installed) "string area." Sandy said that jewelweed helps to reduce the damage done to the soil by garlic mustard.

Lessons Learned on Japanese Knotweed. The area that was covered by black plastic for **four** years seems to be free of JKW.

Summer Events: Suggestions were made:

Contact potential event leaders. **David** will be the person to receive ideas for events from whoever wishes to send them. **David** will receive write-ups about each approved event and submit them to the FoAGM web site and the *Advocate* and the *Minuteman*. **Don** will draft an email to be sent to potential leaders. Potential leaders include Sally Naish and Joe Snodgrass, Herb Pearce, Chris Floyd, and others.

Educational Mini-Grant Project. At the meeting at Sandra's home, SC members agreed to put up boxes on the two kiosks to hold the materials Naomi has prepared for children and families coming to AGM.

Cans and Bottles: Many are being left in a teenager drinking spot to the left of North Trail. Suggestion: Ask the Lexington police to check on the nursing home parking lot at night. The trash barrel at the end of the nursing home parking lot is back.

Permanent Protection for AGM: This may be an opportune time to look again at potential arrangements for permanent protection of AGM (most probably a conservation restriction). John will begin some strategic conversations with David's assistance. David said Elizabeth Island is a joint CR with the Arlington ConCom and MA Audubon each holding responsibility for its protection.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Miller

Approved 6/29/11