

## **Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows**

Steering Committee

September 8, 2011

Approved 10/4/11

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

Minutes of the 6/29 meeting were approved.

Date of the next meeting Tues. Oct. 4 at 7:30. Location to be determined.

### **Meadow Restoration**

Sandra and John reported on the new meadow restoration volunteers. David Markum has been particularly active. David, Jenny Ta and Evelyn Margot, who recently was trained, have pretty much eliminated the woody growth back to the stone wall. The wildflowers have thrived in the seeded area. We would like to recognize our volunteers with a note on the kiosk and on the website. We will invite them to our November meeting to get their feedback on the project. To maintain the meadow in the future, we anticipate cutting at least 2X a year in early summer and in the fall.

### **JKW control**

John wrote an article jointly with Tara Mitchell of MassDOT on Japanese Knotweed control for the Ecological Landscaping Association (ELA) newsletter, which is published on the ELA website. For our control project along the bike path, we are considering organizing a team, including high school students, using the model of the meadow restoration team. We anticipate that we will need about 8 people cutting once a month (2 per week) to cover the area. They could use grass whips and remove the debris from the soil onto the uncovered pile. We plan to recruit in April to train and prepare them to start in May. John volunteered to meet with the community service coordinator for LHS.

### **Fall Programs**

Don and Sandra led a walk for the faculty of the Waldorf Elementary School on Monday, Aug. 29<sup>th</sup>. There were about 35 teachers present, some of whom use the Meadow quite frequently, and the group appreciated learning about the history of the land.

Don and Sandra volunteered to lead a trail work project for 2 days (Sept 12 and 19) from 1:30 to 3 with Jeanette Voss and 20 7<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Don will lead a public walk on Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:30.

David is checking with the Menotomy Bird Club to see if it would like to lead a walk.

### **Maintenance and Trail Development**

David and John will be meeting with representatives of the Lexington Fire Department and the Lexington Conservation Commission on Thursday 9/8 (subsequently postponed to 9/15) to discuss what needs to be done to facilitate fire truck access at AGM.

We discussed the pros and cons (enhanced recreation versus wildlife protection) of creating a circle trail that remains in AGM without exiting to Circle Road. It was decided that we should walk that area in the winter when the wetland is frozen over to further explore the possibility.

### **Land Preservation**

John reported on recent discussions with representatives of the Lexington Community Preservation (CPC) Committee, Brian Rehrig and State Rep. Jay Kauffman regarding long-term preservation of AGM. David is going to follow up with Brian about extending the discussion to Arlington officials.

### **Annual Report**

It was agreed that, as we are now completing our tenth year, this would be a good time to do a more extensive Annual Report with a retrospective on what has been accomplished and plans for the future. David will draft an outline for our feedback.

Respectfully submitted

Sandra Ruggiero

(with some edits by David White and John Bartenstein)