**Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows**

Steering Committee

May 29, 2018

 **Approved 11/14/18**

**Present:** David White, Sandra Ruggiero, Gordy Jones, Lorelle Yee, Don Miller

**Regrets:** Jeanette Voss, Mike Tabaczynski.

**Minutes:** The minutes of February 7, 2018 were reviewed and approved.

Next Meeting: Sometime in the Fall.

**Outreach**

1. The 2017 FoAGM Annual Report has been distributed to Town officials and is on our website.
2. FoAGM was represented at Arlington’s EcoFest on March 24 and we got a few new names.
3. David led a circumnavigation walk at AGM on May 26. Twenty people participated; the names of new, interested people were obtained. Publicity seems to be more effective through email lists of interested people than through notices in local papers.
4. David will lead a dog-focused walk sometime later this Spring co-sponsored by A-DOG of Arlington.
5. Other people have been organizing events at AGM including a plant walk through Arlington Community Education led by “Boot” Boutwell on May 19.
6. “Great Meadows Haikus” Cecily Miller working with the Bike Committees of Arlington, Lexington and Bedford is organizing a public art project in which Haikus will be painted on the bikeway to celebrate local places of interest. We are invited to submit ones to celebrate AGM.
7. We planned no summer events for AGM but will likely offer fall walks again.
8. Interpretative material is being organized for the Waldorf School Bee Hotel project.
9. No further contacts from LCA.
10. Potential Event: A walk for Waldorf School parents, to be arranged for a morning after they drop their children off at the school. It was left as a possibility to be considered.

**Nursing Home and AGM Access**

1. The nursing home abutting AGM closed permanently today.
2. The Town officials of Arlington and Lexington have been made aware of this and that it might affect AGM. But everyone is awaiting what happens next.
3. **Is there an easement which guarantees access through the nursing home’s parking lot?** Don thinks so; David is not aware of it. The existence of wetlands along the side of the parking lot may provide legal or political leverage in this matter. **Don** will check with John Bartenstein about it and do further research if necessary.
4. Because the land is adjacent to wetland areas the Lexington Conservation Commission will be involved in any property changes.

**Reappointments**

The Steering Committee voted the continuation of all current members of the Steering Committee plus the addition of Lorelle Yee – Welcome, Lorelle. All terms are for one year. Thus, the current Steering Committee members, as of this meeting, are:

David White, Chair

Mike Tabaczynski, Treasurer

Don Miller, Clerk

Jeanette Voss

Sandra Ruggiero

Gordon Jones

Lorelle Yee

**Maintenance**

1. Storm damage clean-up. **David** will advertise for volunteers to cut up fallen trees and limbs. **Lorelle** will borrow David’s battery-powered chain saw and cut some of the wood.
2. The vista at Glacial Knoll was opened up by Lorelle recently.
3. Woodcock Meadow is growing in with trees and shrubs. It is now more grown-in than it was prior to the FoAGM meadow restoration project four or five years ago. The SC agreed to wait a year and monitor the situation. And also follow how the Joyce Miller’s Meadow Project works out.
4. We will plan to ask Dennis Busa to mow the AGM upland meadow again in the fall of this year.
5. There is an AGM boundary sign post (**where?**) that needs replacement or repair.
6. Sandra has a Kestrel house in her garage available for mounting if we can organize a team to do so.

**Invasive Plants**

1. Japanese knotweed is starting to grow. David will check with Greg Shenstone who did this last year to see what his plans are and if he would like others to help.
2. We also note that the invasive plant removal and restoration project at Cataldo Reservation led by Holly Samuels is progressing well.

**Trail Signage**

1. **Don** will send notes he made on signage needs several years ago.
2. **David, Don and Gordy** will try to schedule a site walk to work out a current plan.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Miller

Clerk

**DRAFT 6-26-18**

Edits by David 7/10/18