**Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows**

Steering Committee

March 6, 2019

**DRAFT 3/21/19 by Lorelle with some edits by David**

**Present:** David White, Gordy Jones, Lorelle Yee, Jeanette Voss, Mike Tabaczynski, Sandra Ruggiero.

**Regrets:** Don Miller.

**Old Business**

November 14 Meeting Minutes were reviewed and accepted.

Annual Report for 2018 was reviewed and accepted.

**Updates**

1. The **Winter Walk** on February 16 led by Sandrawas well attendedwith about 12 participants. Sandra reported it was the best tracking she had seen. Tracks from Deer, Mink, Raccoon, Possum were sighted.
2. We discussed **Spring Walks** – possibly around the Woodcock migration if timing works with Sandra’s schedule. Possible outreach to the Menotomy Birders too. David will do a dog walk and a non-dog walk in the spring.
3. **Thank you notes** – David made note cards using a photo of the Great Meadows and compiled a list of donors to AGM. We each took several names and hand wrote thank you notes to send to the donors.
4. **Photo Contest** – We discussed but decided it was too much work. Jeannette mentioned ongoing Artwork projects that her students and others at Waldorf do that involves pictures and other projects depicting the meadow area.
5. **Swallow Wort Control –** Mike has been contacted about releasing moths in the meadow that eat the invasive Black Swallow Wort plant. The group gave Mike the go-ahead to do this.
6. **Mountain Bikers on Trails –** Sandra brought up concern about the ruts that bikers are leaving on the trails – especially during the muddy, cold season – when ruts freeze. We discussed ways of discouraging bikers on these trails – but there are too many access points to be able to control, or even post, the access. If there are particularly bad areas being affected by the bikers, it was suggested a future project could be to build a boardwalk in those areas to protect the soil.

**New and Ongoing Projects**

1. **Expanding Meadow Restoration** – we agreed we would like expand the current area that is mowed to include the Woodcock area. P. 10/Map 2 of the Audubon Report (Sections 6 & 7). David, Gordy and Sandra will look in to next steps – such as reaching out to Lexington Conservation Committee for permits needed, and if approved getting bids from contractors.
2. **Signage** – Unfortunately, notes were lost on the Directional Signage project. Mike will follow up in warmer weather to try to reconstruct what was planned. Will try to do a walk around in April
3. **New Across Lexington Access Route –** Mike outlined on a map the newest branch of the walking trail system that would connect from Emerson Gardens area to Solomon Pierce Area. Committee approved this trail. The goal is to have a trail from a half-mile from everyone in Lexington. We discussed the route and agreed to keep the trail separate from the Emerson Gardens Driveway. We support the Greenways Corridor Committee on this trail addition. This involves some new trail and volunteers would be needed to clear and build the trail.

**Next Meeting:** May 2019, date TBD.