

Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows

Steering Committee

April 17, 2007

Approved 5/23/07

Present: David White, Mike Tabaczynski, Laurel Carpenter, John Bartenstein, Don Miller

1. *Minutes.* Minutes of the March meeting were approved. The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, May 22, to be confirmed with Sandra.

2. *Financial Report.* Mike reported the following:

Received since 1/1/07	\$1600.00
Spent	126.87
Balance as of this meeting	8448.98

3. *Japanese Knotweed Project.* Sandra's students will work at the knotweed site on the morning of April 26, digging out as many root crowns as possible, especially on the side to the west of the black plastic area. The black plastic will be left down. We'll continue to cut the other areas, but use the weed-whacker from now on.

David will get more durable versions of the knotweed project signs, encouraging volunteers to help.

4. *Grassland Project.* On Saturday, April 7, four Steering Committee members did a field trip to the grassland areas to review possible areas for restoration and next steps. Don contacted Frances Clark, who suggested Jeff Collins of MA Audubon regarding issues of restoration and management. Mike emailed him, and is waiting to hear back.

John mentioned the project on woodcock area at Habitat, about which there was an article in the Habitat newsletter. The Town of Belmont received a grant for grassland restoration at Rock Meadow; perhaps we can, too. **Mike** will contact Roger Wrubel, the director of Habitat, about this.

John suggested the following approach: during the spring of 2007, we develop information about the benefits of a restoration project, obtaining as much insight and guidance from experts as we reasonably can, and outline a proposed plan of action; during the fall of 2007, we discuss the issue with the Arlington Board of Selectmen, hold a public meeting to take comments and get input, and explore further the availability of grant funding; and during the spring and summer of 2008, we obtain any necessary approvals (including that of the

Lexington Conservation Commission) and then implement the project. As part of the planning process, it will be important to examine not only the up-front cost and manpower that will be needed to complete the project, but also ongoing maintenance requirements and costs.

5. *Brandon Street Hole*. Mike contacted earth science teachers in Lexington to ask for student volunteers on April 30, 10 to 1 pm. **Mike** will get approval of the Lexington ConCom for the wording on the signs.

6. *Mini-Grants Program*. The letter to prospective educators was reviewed. **Laurel** will revise the draft with the suggestions made during this meeting.

7. *200th Anniversary of the Town of Arlington*. Jim Barry could be approached to lead a walk concerning the history of AGM. John will invite Jim to our next meeting. Mike sent an email to the Lexington Historical Society seeking a leader for the history walk.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Miller