

Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows
Steering Committee
June 26, 2007
Approved 7/30/07

Present: David White, Mike Tabaczynski, Don Miller, Sandra Ruggiero, and for the Land management section, John Bartenstein

1. Minutes from the May meeting were reviewed and approved. The next meeting date was set for Tuesday July 31.
2. There was no financial report.
3. Neighbor Relations:
 - a. The hole near Brandon Street has been half-filled by Mike and high school volunteers. By now it is full of vegetation and would consequently be difficult to work on. It was felt that the problem has now been sufficiently remediated.
 - b. Karen Mullins said the "No Dumping" signs proposed for the Brandon street and East Village Nursing Home parking lot areas should just cite the laws and not make reference to the Conservation Commission. **Mike** will work on getting the signs made when he can. Don will check into sources (e.g., Mass. Association of Conservation Commissions) that might have information about why dumping is not desirable with the intent of FoAGM doing some public education in the Minuteman and Advocate on this widespread issue.
 - c. A letter from Norma and Chris Floyd concerning their efforts to obtain permission from the Lexington Conservation Commission for volunteer invasive plant control work was reviewed. We definitely want to support them in their environmental work. **Mike** and **David** will meet with them and suggest that they help us draft a generic procedure for invasive control that would include reporting and inspection, but would not involve an arduous procedure or fee.
4. Educational and Outreach Activities:
 - a. The grant request from the Waldorf High School was reviewed. **Sandra** will see if Francesca will write a letter of support for our next meeting.
 - b. **Sandra** will draft a grant application form for our next meeting.
 - c. We decided that we would not attempt an FoAGM project for the 200th Anniversary celebration in Arlington.
 - d. **David** will repaint the kiosks. He was authorized to spend up to \$50 for supplies.
5. Land Management:
 - a. Japanese Knotweed- John reported cleaning out the seeded area completely on Thursday only to return on Sunday and find considerable

new growth of JKW shoots. He mentioned that mosquitoes have been an issue making it difficult to do this work in the evening. **Don** will choose some dates and supervise a work crew and **Mike** will attempt to recruit some teen labor from Jim Williams at LHS. Don plans to have the students work from the seeded section westward doing modest supervised digging if needed. After much discussion on how to get rid of the pile of rhizomes under the tarp, it was decided that we would remove the cover to allow it to dampen and hopefully decompose more rapidly. As we move forward with this project we will put new rhizomes in a separate pile and let the stalks lie on the ground.

- b. Meadow restoration- Mike, Don, and David met with Jeff Collins of Mass Audubon at the Meadows to get his advice. Jeff commented at that meeting that although grassland is nice, it is also valuable to have shrub land. Shrub land does not need as much acreage as grassland to be suitable habitat for wildlife. Jeff also suggested that the area near the kiosk be kept open. We will need to decide on our goals such as maintaining woodcock habitat or opening up some spots for a view. Jeff suggested maintaining “rooms” in the landscape. He also advised that after obtaining public input at hearings or meetings, we attempt to do the clearing in one day. Some of the goals which we identified were to create bird habitat, to create an environment where you know where you are, but in which there is also mystery, and to create greater habitat diversity with the objective of obtaining greater wildlife and plant biodiversity. A second field trip was scheduled for 7:30a.m. on Tuesday July 3 behind the Nursing Home to further examine our goals and ideas for this restoration project.

The meeting closed at approximately 9:30 pm.

Minutes by Sandra, minor edits by David and more edits by John.