

## Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows

Steering Committee

September 18, 2007

Approved 10/16/07

Present: David White, Mike Tabaczynski, John Bartenstein, Sandra Ruggiero, Don Miller. Guests: Susan Cody, Wendy Margo.

The minutes of July 31, 2007 were approved.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 16, 7:30 p.m.

1. **Financial Report:** Contributions year to date: \$1760. Recent expenses: \$354.69 for printing of AGM guide and the annual report. (Additional expenses have been incurred for the No Dumping signs and related hardware, but they have not yet been paid.) Balance as of this date: \$8,321.16.

2. **Educational Mini-Grant Program:** Sandra sent out the application form and cover letter on September 17 to contacts at the following: Lexington Schools, Arlington Schools, Waldorf School, and Lexington Christian Academy. David will post them on the web site.

3. **Vernal Pool Kits:** Sandra contacted Francesca who contacted the second graders at the Brackett School regarding FoAGM providing vernal pool kits to schools. The teachers are interested in the vernal pool field trip, but won't do it if the high school students won't lead it. Sandra mentioned the following constraints on her students being involved: (1) transportation issues for both the classroom presentation and the field trip, and (2) the need to devote more of her students' time to issues other than vernal pools. Question: Is the program worth doing if it includes only the classroom portion? Sandra and Susan Cody will discuss possible arrangements for next year.

4. **Nature Walks in October:** *Don* will arrange the publicity for them. *David* will send him the publicity checklist. CLC has put out publicity on the walks based on information which *Don* provided them.

5. **Recent Graffiti:** *Don* will write a letter to the Lexington DPW thanking them for their clean-up of the extensive, offensive graffiti on the Finger Marsh Boardwalk. Using materials provided by Mike, *Don* will remove spray paint from about 15 trees scattered north of the Finger Marsh Boardwalk, and he will try to remove the small amount of paint still on the Finger Marsh Board Walk.

6. **Dumping:** *Don* agreed to write an article about the harm caused by dumping yard waste on public lands. It was suggested that a photo be included.

7. **Trails and Board Walks:** John and Don have cut back the plants which were covering the Finger Marsh BW. Perhaps a sickle should be used next time; a weed whacker won't work there. *Mike* will plan a work day to clear out the Fottler Avenue path.

8. **Knotweed Site:** It was agreed that *Don* will pull out ragweed and other undesired plants, and he will encourage plants such as the following to grow there: chickory, goldenrods, Jerusalem artichokes (low on the slope), rudbeckia, white yarrow and others which will grow well there and won't block the view. It was agreed that we will leave the black plastic in place during the 2008 growing season. It is currently in good order.

9. **Restoration of the Grassland Area:** A letter was received from Harvey Cote expressing concern that the grassland area on the north side of AGM is filling in with sumac and other tall shrubs or trees. It was agreed that some of the tall vegetation near the north side kiosk should be removed at this time, even before completion of our management plan for the area. *Don* will work with Harvey to do it. The tall sumac near the beginning of the trail should be left, but the following should be removed from the view across the grassland in an area roughly 100 by 200 feet: sumac, glossy buckthorn, and small saplings of trees. *Don* will ask Harvey to make before-and-after photographs of this view.

It was agreed we need to draft a plan for restoration of the grassland area for review by Jeff Collins of MA Audubon to review. The text would discuss the rationale for undertaking the restoration project. Eventually the revised plan will be sent to the Board of Selectmen and Conservation Commission of Arlington and the Board of Selectmen of Lexington.

10. **Guests' Concerns:** Susan Cody said she came to the meeting because of the graffiti on the board walk (recently removed by Lexington DPW). Wendy Margo said she works with parents who might be willing to do a project in AGM a couple of times a year. One possibility would be cutting back the plants which grow over the board walk. Members of the Steering Committee will be in touch with her in the future.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Miller

**Final as revised 10-17-07**