

**Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows
Steering Committee
October 28, 2008**

Approved 11-25-08

Present: David White, Mike Tabaczynski, John Bartenstein, Laurel Carpenter, Don Miller; Guest: Dave Pearson

The minutes of the meeting of September 23, 2008 were approved with minor edits suggested by David.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 25 at 7:30pm. The location will be communicated.

Nature Walks: The 3rd Saturday nature walk on October 18th was successful, with 16 participants, including the leader. Most participants were new to the 3rd Saturday series. In the fire area, much of the new growth is turning color now. Future Walks: **Don** will attempt to arrange a winter tracking event through Walden Keeping Track. The SC authorized a fee of up to \$100, but hopefully as low a fee as possible. Laurel is willing to co-lead a winter walk.

Bikeway Celebration: FoAGM's participation in this event was successful. We had a presence at three locations: the knotweed site (an easel with information on the clearing of the view by FoAGM), the kiosk-entrance to AGM (a table with SC members David, John, and Don providing information on AGM), and Lexington Center (where Laurel provided information on AGM and was interviewed by the Lexington cable channel).

East Village Fair: SC members Laurel, David, John, and Don staffed a table with information about AGM. Many people signed petitions urging the plowing of the bikeway in winter. An abutter to AGM at the Sheila Road entrance said that AGM users' dogs "make use of" her yard as they enter and leave AGM.

Stone House: John and Laurel attended the hearing. They presented a proposal for FoAGM to be allowed to use the Stone Building for meetings and for storage of materials. Five other community groups also made such presentations.

Waldorf School Bees Project: Joe O'Regan's report was reviewed. It was noted that the report did not mention the mini-grant which FoAGM provided this project. We also want FoAGM website listed and the expense receipts for Mike. **Sandra** will contact Joe.

Meadow Restoration: Jeff Collins told Mike he is doing field work and will begin writing the report in the next few weeks.

Joyce Miller's Meadows: A sign has been erected along the bikeway at the entrance to this Town of Lexington conservation land.

Invasive Plant Control: On October 13 (Columbus Day), FoAGM sponsored a work party at the JKW site. Virtually all of the remaining knotweed stalks were pulled out or cut. Participating were David, John, Mike, and Don of the SC plus volunteers Mark Bleier from Lexington and Nancy Anderson from Medford. It was agreed that the remaining black plastic will be left in place until the fall of 2009. John suggested we might consider extending the knotweed-control area by 50 yards along the bikeway each year; this was left for future discussion.

Black Swallowwort: Don will research methods of controlling this invasive plant and report to the SC.

2008 Annual Report: The group reviewed a grid of proposed section assignments for this year's report. David will send everyone the final minutes of 2008 to date so we can review them before writing assigned sections of the report. Don will review all the minutes to see if anything else should be mentioned. In the future we will discuss possible ways of making photos of AGM electronically available to all members. All SC Members will send to David the names of individuals or groups which should be thanked in the 2008 report. Also, all SC Members are expected to complete drafts of the sections assigned to them by the next meeting. See the attached assignment grid – Exhibit A – which is part of the minutes.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Miller