

**Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows
Steering Committee
October 20, 2009**

DRAFT

Present: David White, Sandra Ruggiero, Mike Tabaczynski, John Bartenstein, Laurel Carpenter, Sandy Vorce, Don Miller. Guest: Ann Strong.

Minutes: The minutes of the September meeting were approved as corrected.

Next Meeting: It was agreed that we will generally meet on the third Tuesday of the month. Thus, the next two meetings are scheduled for November 17 and December 15.

Coyotes: Laurel and John reported on the recent presentation in Lexington about coyotes. Coyotes in this area migrated from the western USA into Canada where they picked up some gray wolf DNA and then over time migrated here. They are not scrawny like western coyotes. Coyotes can make their voices sound like many more animals than are actually present. Coyotes are not nocturnal, but crepuscular¹, i.e. active in the twilight hours.

Guest Ann Strong told of her experiences with coyotes in her yard, which abuts AGM on three sides. She has seen animals which were killed by coyotes within feet of her home and saw the three coyotes involved. Recently she has seen them at all times of day, and she said she sees fewer rabbits, squirrels, and skunks than before.

John Maguranis, coyote expert, is willing to speak and take a walk with us at AGM. **Laurel** will ask him if he has an information sheet on coyotes which could be posted on our website.

SC Membership: Laurel will continue as a member of the Steering Committee with the same term as everyone else.

Nature Walks: Don reported on the most recent Third Saturday walk, which had about 18 participants, and a walk he led for a girl scout troop (three girls, two boys, and three moms). Next Saturday in AGM there will be a hike for children and parents led by Brian McBride as part of his newly-formed program called "Bay State Kids Outdoors" (BSKO); Don will assist.

¹ **cre·pus·cu·lar**

Pronunciation: \kri- p s-ky -l r\

Function: *adjective*

Date: 1668

1 : of, relating to, or resembling twilight : [dim](#) <crepuscular light>

2 : occurring or active during twilight <crepuscular insects> <crepuscular activity>

Art Project: Sandra reported that one funding source to which the two Mass Art student applied has turned them down. She does not know if they have identified other potential sources of funds.

Annual Report: John agreed to edit it again this year. Topic assignments were agreed upon, as follows:

Mike: Trails and finance

Sandy: Meadow restoration

Don: Education and outreach (including research by Tufts and Northeastern students and Town Day). Also, invasive plants project.

Sandra: Bee Project. (Nothing new to report on other mini-grants this year.)

Laurel: Coyotes

David: The fire.

David will enter these assignments on the grid format used last year and distribute it. To remind us of 2009 accomplishments, **David** will send out all the minutes to date of 2009.

Bee Project: **Sandra** will find out its current status.

Restoration of Grassland: **Sandy** will draft a follow-up letter to contractor Chris Polatin confirming what we need in his proposal and when we hope to receive it (one week before our next meeting). Mike said Joyce Miller's Meadow was not included in the field trip with the contractor and that we should schedule a time for Chris to see it.

Trail Work: **Mike** will arrange a volunteer day on Sunday, November 8th, to work on the trails, particularly to widen the trails on which fire trucks need to be able to move.

FoAGM "Business Cards": **Don** will email a draft of FoAGM business cards for review by SC members.

Cutting of Plants by the Culvert: **Don** will cut some shrubs and small trees in that area to provide a better view of the red maple swamp.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Miller

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