

Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows
Steering Committee
June 29, 2011
Approved 9/6/11

Present: David White, Sandra Ruggiero, Sandy Vorce, John Bartenstein, Don Miller

The minutes of May 31, 2011 were approved after some edits.

Next Meeting. Tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, July 26. [Subsequently changed to Thursday, July 28.]

Annual Report Distribution. Hard copies of the report were distributed to those who needed them.

Upland Meadow Restoration Project. The woody plants are growing back quickly. Especially smooth sumac, gray birch, gray dogwood, and quaking aspen, but also bear oak and honeysuckle. Several weeks ago, John was able to use a weed whip to cut the higher woody vegetation in the re-seeded area without damaging any of the newly planted seedlings. The seedlings have now grown tall enough that this is no longer feasible, so any further clearing of woody vegetation in the re-seeded area would have to be done individually with clippers. With respect to the larger portion of the meadow that is outside the re-seeded area, there was a discussion of the possibility of mowing to manage the re-growth of woody plants. This, however, would entail considerable expense. (Previously, Chris Polatin had suggested *high* mowing (8" to 10") twice a year for two years at \$750 per cut for a total of \$3,000.) Mid-June and mid-August are the usual times if mowing is to be done twice a year. There was also concern that the mowing be done when it would not harm nesting birds. It was decided as an alternative to see if we can manage the re-growth and maintain the meadow with a volunteer effort using grass whips or similar tools.

Sandra distributed a draft request for volunteers to do at least two hours of work per month on maintenance of the upland meadow. We need people who will keep at it over time. They would be trained regarding which plants to cut and which not to cut. The Steering Committee authorized up to \$100 for equipment, including one or more grass whips, to support this effort. In addition, the amount of \$31.23 was approved for reimbursement to John for expenses previously incurred for supplies in the upland meadow restoration project. Sandra's draft was approved for sending to the FoAGM group email list and for posting on the two kiosks. Six volunteers are needed.

Invasive Plant Control. John has cut or pulled everything in the Japanese knot weed plot, in some cases multiple times. He had cleaned out the top of the slope prior to this, and that is not growing back in much, but the rest of the slope is growing in luxuriantly. If the volunteer effort for the meadow restoration project is successful, we could try something similar for the JKW effort, perhaps using high school students seeking community service hours.

Teenage Drinking and Littering. The removal of the pile of firewood seems to have reduced the partying there.

Nature Events. David will further edit Don's draft of an email soliciting walk leaders and send it around for review by SC members.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Miller