

Minutes from FoAGM Steering Committee Meeting – February 24, 2004

Approved 3/31/04.

Present: David White, Andrea Golden, Sandra Ruggerio, John Bartenstein, Don Miller, Scott Kirschner, Laurel Carpenter.

1. Previous minutes from January 12 were approved.

2. Next meeting will be March 31.

3. Financial report

Brian Rehrig of the Arlington Land Trust submitted a report of receipts and a summary of contributions to date by donor. Current balance is \$2,077. No disbursements have been made. John plans to submit receipts from beverages from tracking lecture. Sandra will submit a request for the speaker honorarium when she has her cancelled check. Don raised a concern that the acknowledgement letter of his donation was incorrect. Sandra reported on funds collected during tracking event which fell short of our expectations. We will try to be more up front about money the next time we have a public event. We appreciate the contributions of the Walden Tracking Group in making the walk a success. And the current wisdom is yes indeed we found the tracks of a Grey Fox!

4. Resource management activities update

- Trail grant application: Mike was informed that RTP grant application availability is imminent. This was not a legislative issue, just administrative delays. Money is there and approved for release from Mass Highway Dept. Brian and Mike are ready to go when the DCR gets its act together.

- Sign proposal ('almost approved' per Alex)

- Owl boxes will be installed in the Meadow on Sunday, February 29.

- Spring clean-ups and invasive control

Four Saturdays were selected for invasive plant control and trash collection. Rain dates are the next day. Two FoAGM leaders are requested for each date. Ideas for these events included having a packet of info for leaders including a map with targeted areas of the invasive plants, instructions/guidelines, a sign-up sheet to track the participants, and if available, information on the invasive plants. It was also suggested that before and after photos could be taken in order to keep a record of our invasive management activities. Spring dates and leaders are as follows: (*Don: please add other names that you have.*)

April 3	Andrea Golden
April 17	
May 1	Laurel Carpenter & Don Miller
May 15	

- We agreed that it would be nice to have smaller more portable copies of the detailed base map that Mike as put together for field notes etc..

5. Educational activities update

- School programs: Sandra reported that she will be leading 7 elementary school (1-3 grade) classes over 6 days this spring. Fourteen high school students will be working with the elementary school classes. She raised the issue of foot traffic impact on the pools and asked for input on this topic.
- Current guidebook supply is adequate; a reprint is not needed at this time.
- Spring general meeting. Laurel had not yet heard back from Chris Mattrick of the New England Wildflower Society, and since a clear topic had not emerged for a spring meeting, the decision was made to hold a steering committee meeting on March 31, and to open this meeting up to any interested persons. An addendum to this topic is that Chris Mattrick did subsequently contact Laurel and say that he would be willing to speak to FoAGM, but is very busy and has limited availability until the later part of March and April. He offered to call Laurel during the week to discuss this further. Another suggested topic for a future general meeting is a speaker on historical aspects of the Great Meadow. [Andrea?] is to contact the Arlington Historical Society to see if they had someone who could speak on this topic. This would likely be for the fall.
- An impromptu tracking walk could happen again this season if the conditions are right. Sandra will take the initiative as appropriate.
- Spring walks. Andrea reported that Menotomy Bird Club has planned Woodcock walks for April 9th & 24th which can be in conjunction with FoAGM. Andrea offered to contact Marianne King of CLC to see if any joint walks can be planned. There was discussion of an insect walk, perhaps pond dipping, in June. Also a plant walk with Betty Wright in May.

6. Steering Committee recruitment was not addressed other than opening the next meeting to the larger group.