

**Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows
Steering Committee Meeting
May 19, 2004**

Approved: 6-24-04

Present:

David White, chair	Laurel Carpenter
Mike Tabaczynski	Sandra Ruggiero
John Bartenstein	Don Miller

1. Minutes of the previous meeting of April 20, 2004 were approved with the correction of a misspelled name..
2. Next meeting will be Thursday, June 24th at the Waldorf High School.
3. Financial Report: Mike reported no change in financial records, but there are some expenses for the clean-up project which have not yet been processed. **John** agreed to create a form for the submission of expenses.
4. Election of Officers: It was agreed unanimously to extend the terms of David White as Chair and Mike Tabaczynski as Fiscal Coordinator, each term to extend through May 31, 2005.
5. Bird Boxes: **Don** and Roly Chaput have scheduled time to fix the bottom of the bird box nearer Waldorf School and make more secure the box closer to the nursing home. There was discussion of building bird boxes for other species. **Don** will check the MA Audubon web site to determine if the bottom trap door was part of their suggested specifications.
6. April 24th Clean-up: Mike said five people worked that day, and the elusive bath tub of yesteryear was finally found.
7. May 15th Invasives Day: This had a fairly small turnout and focused on Garlic Mustard. Andrea was the primary organizer on this day.
8. Planned May 22nd Work Day: Mike is getting inquiries from High School Students. We'll re-close trails, plant trees obtained from Lynn Woods, work on invasives. **John** will create a form for student volunteers' documentation of hours worked for community service requirements at school.

INVASIVES

9. Andrea is working on control of purple loosestrife and garlic mustard, and she has cleared the activity with the Lexington Conservation Commission. She is sprouting swamp milkweed seeds to plant where purple loosestrife has been.
10. Japanese Knotweed: For the "cut, cut, cut" area David proposed planting native grasses where the JKW has been. Laurel suggested planting red raspberry and/or black berry, which are native. **Mike** will circulate a draft plan to Steering Committee members before it goes to the Arlington Conservation Committee and the Lexington Conservation Committee. The

plan will suggest specific area for the “cut, cut, cut” approach and the “cut, clear, and cover” approach.

11. Anti-Dumping Campaign: **John** will look into Town of Lexington regulations and see under what authority the letter could be sent to abutters and nearby neighborhoods. Perhaps the letter should come from the Arlington Selectmen? Sandra spoke with a resident of Emerson Gardens who spoke to the complex’s manager, and man named Brian. He did not respond positively to her request not to dump landscaping waste on AGM property. Our letter on the subject should mention that yard waste can spread invasive weeds. John suggested starting with a letter to the management company of Emerson Gardens. He added that some of Emerson Gardens in Town of Lexington affordable housing. **Sandra** will obtain the name and address of the management company. **John** will look into Lexington bylaws and regulations (?).

EDUCATION

12. The nature program for residents of East Village Rehabilitation and Nursing Center on Saturday, May 15 was a success. About 14 residents of the facility attended and seemed to enjoy it.
13. School Trips: Sandra has done five trips to the vernal pools. May 20 and June 10 are the last two trips. Sandra has seen no fairy shrimp at either of the two major vernal pools of AGM. Narrow leaf violet and sundews are interesting plants of AGM. A parent has taken photographs of one of the trips. On the May 20th trip a parent who is a professional photographer will come and take photographs. Permission to use the photographs will be obtained, so they can be used for a Globe photo or an article for our web site.
15. Coming Nature Walks: Menotomy Bird Club: **June 12, Saturday, 7:30-10:30 AM**. A bird walk with Chris Floyd is coming up – the date is on our web site. **David** will put nature walks early the agenda of the next meeting. The Audubon oriole nest count will be on June 13th.
16. FoAGM “business card”: Don handed out a draft for discussion. The card would be useful to hand to people whom we encounter in AGM, especially while we are doing activities such as clean-ups and invasive control. **Don** agreed to edit it a bit based on the discussion and email to SC members to give them a chance to submit comments to David by Friday morning. **David** will produce a small run of the cards for us to use in the coming few weeks.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Miller

With some edits & additions by DEWhite, 5/31/04