

**Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows
Steering Committee Meeting
November 30, 2004
Approved 1/11/2005**

Present:

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

1. Minutes of the previous meeting of October were approved with minor corrections.
2. Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 11, at 7:30pm.
All these meetings to be held at the old Waldorf High School
3. Financial Report: Nothing new to report.
4. Boardwalk status: Nothing new to report.
5. Kiosk management:
The plexiglass cover to our new kiosk has been broken. We decided for now we will take off the cover and see how we do without it being locked. **Mike** volunteered to take off the cover.
6. Neighbor relations:
A truck and dumpster have been on AGM land behind Emerson Gardens. It was generally felt that this was due to lack of awareness about where the Great Meadows border is. It was decided to begin with a friendly letter to the owner of the land for the condos. **Mike** will research who this is by going to the assessor's office or the DBA listing in the secretary of state office. Letter will be copied to John Maher.
7. Educational activities:
3 vernal pool presentations have been made by the Waldorf High School students to the 5th grade students at Brackett School (and the Dallen classes who are also housed there this year). **Sandra** will take some pictures and write a brief article to post on the website.

Sandra will also ask Walden Keeping Track if they are interested in doing another tracking walk in the Great Meadows this year. Dates that we are requesting are Feb. 5th or 12th.

We intend to hold a general meeting of FoAGM this winter. **David** will ask Jim Marzilli to be the speaker. We are envisioning a Tues. or Wed. in March or

early April. (Please let **Sandra** know the date so that she can request space at the Waldorf School)

Don and Laurel agreed to lead a Bare Naked Plants walk on March 5th (back up date is March 19th in the event plants are clothed in snow) It was also suggested that perhaps the group could meet inside before going out on the walk.

8. Lexington Reads:

Mike handed out the publicity for this event. We will add a link to the FoAGM web site to inform our membership about this. Also we will request a table for the April 16th event to put out our literature. (**David and Mike** are doing these.)

9. Expanding steering group:

We would like to have more people on our steering group. We talked about a few names. **Sandra** will ask Francesca Coltrera. Roly Chaput would also be great, but we recognized that he is faithful participant in all our work days for which we are very appreciative and maybe that is more his preferred role than coming to evening meetings.

10. Annual report:

The draft of the annual report was discussed. Comments included reducing our future goals to a few “sexy” items, changing management to stewardship so that we do not claim more authority than we actually have, checking with Andrea to see if she wants to chair or co-chair the Invasives Committee, and our using the annual report as a PR piece in addition to informing the ALT what we are doing. **David** will do his edits and **Laurel** will rewrite the 1st paragraph and clean it up. It will be redistributed and approved by e-mail.

11. Vista and invasives management:

Mike wrote a first draft of our response to Harvey Cote’s letter which advocated for management of the successional growth in order that the vistas which have and are disappearing could be maintained. With this response we want to elicit cooperation while at the same time explaining that we are bound by regulations such as getting permission before any cutting is done. We want to thank him for the walk with him and express our hope to continue the dialogue. We will invite him to come to our meetings. **David** will take Mike’s concepts and shorten the letter. He will also ask Harvey if he has some photos we could post on our website.

We discussed a general form for letters that express concern over what we are doing. A format could be:

thank you for the concern and interest
invite participation in dealing with the tough issues
let them know that we hear what they are saying
tell them what we are doing about it