

**Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows
Steering Committee Meeting
January 11, 2005
Approved 2/16/2005**

Present:	Sandra Ruggiero
David White, chair	Laurel Carpenter
Mike Tabaczynski	Mike Yocum, guest
John Bartenstein	Don Miller

1. Minutes of the meeting of November 30, 2004 were approved.
2. Next meetings: Tentatively set for Wednesday, February 16. If this is not good for those not present at tonight's meeting, it will be moved to Tuesday, February 15th. [Approved date is Wed, Feb 16]
2. Financial Report: Mike reported a balance of \$3131 at the end of 2004.
3. Report of the Board of Selectmen's Meeting: David reported that on the previous evening he presented to the BOS our recent accomplishments and a brief summary of our goals for the coming year. Several other steering committee members as well as Roly Chaput, Brian Rehrig and Ann LeRoyer were also present. The selectmen were very supportive of and appreciative of FoAGM's efforts.
4. The Boardwalk Project: Mike has received official notice of approval of the grant application. A contract needs to be signed by Arlington Land Trust and the state before funds can be spent. The length will be about 700 feet and will include several wider "overlook" spots. The cost is estimated to be \$11,315. FoAGM's required 20 percent match will be the volunteer hours to construct it, estimated to be 460 person hours.
4. Educational Activities:
 - a. The tracking walk with Walden Keeping Track will be Sunday, February 13, at 1:00pm. Limit 15 participants.
 - b. General meeting in April. David will look into potential speakers.
 - c. "Bare Naked Plants" Walk: Saturday, March 5, with back-up date of March 19. Laurel and Don to lead.
 - d. Edible Plants Walk with Russ Cohen, date to be determined.
 - e. Grade school program on vernal pools: Sandra is working on dates for later this year.
5. Access from Orchard Lane and Bartlett Avenue: Guest Roger Yocum said he built a bridge over Munroe Brook some years ago, but the bridge was destroyed by beaver activity and flooding. The bridge connected the path from Orchard Lane and Bartlett Ave to Lexington conservation land, and from there one could walk into AGM near Infinity Pond. Roger is interested in having a bridge rebuilt there and is seeking assistance in doing that. Mike said it is a good site for a bridge, but it would need to be a 24 foot span and would cost about \$800. The area is muddier than it was before the beavers were there and destroyed the trees. There are a

number of options of sites for the bridge and various trails to it. Part of the current trail to Bartlett Ave. appears to be on private land (Sunbridge of Lexington nursing home). David suggested approaching the nursing home to donate a small portion of the land for a tax break. There are several possible sources of funds: certain private conservation funds, the Citizens for Lexington Conservation, and possibly FoAGM. Next step: **Mike** will speak to the Lexington ConCom and discuss possible sites for the bridge. The consensus was that FoAGM would consider providing part of the funds for such a bridge (possibly along with other sources of funds) if area residents also contributed to it.

6. Emerson Gardens Trailers: Truck trailers providing new windows to Emerson Gardens have been left on property belonging to AGM. It was agreed that it is acceptable if the trucks do not stay there past February and if no further use of this AGM land occurs. The back road which runs along the AGM property is a private road owned by Emerson Gardens. Next step: **John, Mike and David** will meet with members of the Board of Trustees of Emerson Gardens sometime in the next month.

7. Cutting of Vegetation: David will speak with Harvey Cote about recent cutting of vegetation at AGM and whether he was involved in it. There was discussion of the need in the long term for an AGM stewardship plan which would address such topics as areas of vegetation to be allowed to grow, plant communities to be maintained in their current state through cutting or other means, and the establishment or maintenance of scenic views. Such a plan could be submitted to the Board of Selectmen for their review and approval.

8. Distribution of Annual Report: A copy will be sent to the principal of LCA. John sent copies of it to the Lexington Board of Selectmen and one copy to the ConCom. Mike will take copies for all ConCom members when he meets with them.

9. Vehicles in AGM: There has been another incident of a four-wheel-drive vehicle in AGM. It was agreed that a chain and lock be put across the entrance which enters AGM from the East Village nursing home parking lot. **Mike** will speak with the fire department, then buy the chain and lock and install them.

10. Vegetation control AGM: This discussion was postponed until next meeting.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Miller

Edits & corrections by Mike T & David W.