

**Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows
Steering Committee Meeting
February 16, 2005**

Draft 3/15/04 by Laurel. Minor edits 3/17/05 by David.

Meeting held at 48 Sanderson Road

Approved 4/5/05

Present:	Sandra Ruggiero
David White	Don Miller
Mike Tabaczynski	Laurel Carpenter

1. Minutes of the previous meeting of 1/11/2005 were approved as written.

2. Next meeting scheduled for March 8 at 7:30 pm at Waldorf HS.

3. Financial Report: Mike reported a balance of over \$3000, with a few outstanding expenses to be reimbursed.

4. Educational Activities:

Tracking Walk. Excellent weather and snow conditions; 13 people attended. Sandra volunteered to send Lydia Rodgers a thank you. David will post a report on the walk to the FOAGM mailing list.

March 5 Plants walk. Don and Laurel will develop a publicity blurb.

General meeting. Jim Marzilli has been approached about speaking at the General Meeting in April, but has not yet come back with a date.

We discussed having FoAGM literature at the next Lexington Reads event, as part of passive recruitment to add membership. David agreed to develop a postcard that can be mailed to us requested that the sender be added to our mailing list. He also agreed to firm up a two-sided handout that can be left at the meeting.

There was discussion of a location for the Annual Meeting; suggestions included the Park Avenue Church in Arlington and Follen Community church.

School programs. School programs are in a winter lull, with plans being made for spring field trips. Sandra will be contacting Francesca to establish dates for the spring trips. She requested permission to have additional copies of the green Meadow guide printed if needed. Sandra is still trying to establish a connection with the biology teacher at Lexington Christian Academy.

Waldorf 4th grade community service. Andy Goldberg, an ALT member and parent of a 4th grader at Waldorf, was seeking ideas for how 4th graders might engage in community service in the meadow. There was no clear idea on what activity might be best for this age group.

Arlington Community Cable. David has been in contact with a group which runs a program called Menotomy Journal, a show with an environmental interest. The SC was supportive of this idea and David agreed to follow up with them to suggest some film ideas, such as covering the building of the boardwalk.

5. Resource Management Activities:

Vegetation control issues—plans and policies

Harvey Cote will be invited for a repeat visit in order to reiterate and reinforce the concerns of the committee that any cutting of vegetation be done in coordination with FoAGM.

Mike T. also reported that he has noted significant clearing on FoAGM land adjacent to an abutter's property on the north end of the meadow near Sheila Road. [I have something in my notes about photos/boundary indications, but no details]

SC members felt that FoAGM needs to develop a master plan for maintenance of the meadow, including preservation of habitat, vistas, and control of invasive species. If the plan were approved by the Board of Selectman, it would enable the plan to serve as a reference point against which individual initiatives to modify the meadow might be reviewed. Groups could be recruited to do pieces of the plan.

Sandra reported that Stew Sanders communicated concern that without mowing, the meadow is a less attractive habitat for woodcocks.

Laurel described a new book, Practical Ecology for Planners, Developers, and Citizens, which introduces and explains key ecological concepts for planners, landscape architects, developers, and others involved in planning and building human habitats. The book is tailored to meet the needs of busy land use professionals and citizens seeking a concise yet thorough overview of ecology and its applications. It offers clear guidelines and a wealth of information on how we can protect species and ecosystems while at the same time creating healthy, sustainable human communities. The SC authorized the purchase of this book to help in the development of a management plan. Laurel agreed to take leadership in this area.

Mike will communicate information about Lexington Stewards' land management plans.

Boardwalk construction schedule. Mike reported that there is still no letter as yet, but a request for determination has been submitted to the LexConCom to do the work. A full workday is being planned for May to start on the shorter board walk, closer to the bike trail. May 14 is a possible date. May 7 is the Lexington Stewards workday at Dunback Meadow.

Bridge over Munroe Brook. There has been no word from Roger Yocum since the last SC meeting. Mike T. spoke with LexConCom re: possible sites. Mike will follow up with Roger to see how his efforts are going in building neighborhood involvement in raising funds and contributing labor.

Emerson Gardens Board Meeting. At the February 28 closed meeting, FoAGM representatives will introduce our organization to the Board. Suggestions for items to bring included the annual report, the Frances Clark report, Mike's map in a reduced size, and an invasives brochure.

Gate closure at the East Village entrance. Mike reported that a locked chain has been installed at this entrance to discourage motor vehicle traffic. Both fire stations and the police station have keys, as well as Mike/John/Sandra (wasn't totally sure who all the final keepers were). Notices about this change have been posted on the FoAGM website, to the mailing list, and on the nearby kiosk. The chain will have reflective tape and paint once the weather warms up sufficient to apply these items.

Japanese Knotweed removal. We now have the official green light to proceed with knotweed removal per our proposal using the cutting and black plastic method. Don Miller will develop a workplan including volunteer recruitment, project supervision, and plans for monitoring over time. The suggestion was made to invite Harvey Cote to participate. Before and after photos were also suggested. A knotweed reconnaissance mission was tentatively planned for Saturday April 2 with a stake-out at 10 a.m. Meet on the bikeway near Sickle Brook. Camouflage gear not required.

Apropos of nothing, I have in my notes that Mike T was asked make more maps.