

**Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows
Steering Committee Meeting
April 5, 2005**

Revision 4/10/05 by Laurel & David & John
Meeting held at former Waldorf High School
Approved 5/18/05

Present:

David White	Andrea Golden
Mike Tabaczynski	Don Miller
John Bartenstein	Laurel Carpenter

1. Minutes of the February 2005 meeting were approved as written.
2. Future meetings: Spring General Meeting: Wednesday, April 27 @ 7:30 pm at Waldorf Elementary School. May meeting will be Wednesday, May 18 at 7:30 at former Waldorf High School.
3. General meeting. Format of the meeting was planned. David White will open with a welcome, provide a short description of the purpose and structure of FoAGM, followed by announcements/upcoming events and introductions of the steering committee members. Members of the committee will give brief remarks on the activities of their subcommittees [we didn't discuss an education report at the meeting, but it would be nice if Sandra could say a few words about some of the educational activities we've done] Don Miller will describe the current Japanese Knotweed control project; Mike T. will discuss the boardwalk project. Laurel volunteered to be timekeeper in order to keep the meeting on track. Following a question and answer period, Jim Marzilli, the keynote speaker, will give an address on the values of open space. The first portion of the meeting will last 30 minutes; Jim will speak approximately 30 minutes, followed by an opportunity for discussion.

Logistic details for the meeting: handouts available about FoAGM, including the need for volunteers for upcoming projects and guidance on how to give money. Mike T. will develop a one-page sheet with bullet points about the boardwalk project with a map on the back. Mike will also bring photographs of other boardwalks he has supervised, and the poster size edition of the detailed meadow map. David will bring poster with color photographs. Copies of the green brochure should be available as well. (who has those?) Laurel will print nametags identifying the members of the Steering Committee. David will bring blank name tags and pens for guests. A collection basket will be present [who was bringing that?] Members of the steering committee are asked to bring refreshments. This can be coordinated by email so that someone is bringing drinks, others sweets or snacks, paper products, etc. Signage should be posted at the front of the school to direct newcomers.

Announcements should include: Arlington Center for the Arts exhibit, Russ Cohen plant walk. SC members who own Russ Cohen's book should bring it to the meeting.

Publicity: David will submit a calendar item. Andrea will draft article text and gather photos for submission to local papers. Meeting notice will be sent to the FoAGM and ALT distribution lists.

4. Resource Management Activities:

Japanese Knotweed Control Project: On Saturday, April 2, members of the SC and guests met on the bikeway and demarcated two test plots for Japanese Knotweed control by two methods: cutting alone, and cutting followed by covering the area with black landscape plastic. Don Miller distributed a draft strategy plan detailing the schedule, volunteer needs, and recommended equipment. (See addendum A, to be added later) Members of the SC provided input for minor changes in the draft.

Boardwalk construction schedule and expenditure approval. There is still no go-ahead letter as yet. The workday is now being postponed until Sunday June 5 to accomplish the shorter board walk, closer to the bike trail. May 7 is the scheduled Lexington Stewards workday at Dunback Meadow. Members of the SC voted unanimously to approve expenditures up to \$200 to cover the costs of organizing the boardwalk project, including legal notice fees. [Reminder of Lex ConComm meeting at 9:15 on Tuesday at Cary Hall] The longer boardwalk is likely to be done in the fall when the meadow is drier and high school volunteers are available.

Bridge over Munroe Brook. There has been no word from Roger Yocum since the last SC meeting.

Emerson Gardens Board Meeting. John Bartenstein submitted a report of the FoAGM presentation and dialogue at the February 28 meeting of the Emerson Gardens Board of Trustees. [See addendum] John agreed to follow up with Eric Michaelson and Dan Baczkowski with a reminder to add a link to FoAGM to their website and to include an item about FoAGM in their newsletter. He will also ask if we can add them to the FoAGM email list so that we can send them notice of our Steering Committee meetings and other events, which they can then recirculate to others at Emerson Gardens

5. Educational/Community Activities:

Andrea Golden provided information on Biodiversity Days as coordinated by the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions, which will take place June 4-12. There are a number of requirements in order to participate. Andrea will talk with CLC to see if they'd like to do something in conjunction. She will also inquire if fewer activities might qualify if we were not able to meet all the requirements.

The Arlington Center for the Arts has an exhibit which includes several representations of the meadow, and SC members are encouraged to visit this gallery, and to consider future items for submission to this venue.

Leftover from previous minutes, but may still need action: I have in my notes that Mike T was asked make more maps.