

**Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows**  
**Steering Committee Meeting**  
**May 18, 2005**  
**Approved 6/28/05**

Present:

David White, chair	Andrea Golden
Mike Tabaczynski	Don Miller
John Bartenstein	Betty Wright, guest

1. Don agreed to take the minutes.
  - 1A. The next meeting will be tentatively Tuesday, June 21, 7:30pm, old Waldorf High School.
2. Minutes of the previous meeting (April 5, 2005) were approved with no revisions.
3. A financial report was not available.
4. Review of the General Meeting. There was very poor turnout despite significant publicity – newspaper article, email to Yahoo list, notice on the web site, a newspaper article, and postcards sent to 30 Arlington residents who have shown an interest in AGM. It was agreed that (1) programs with a nature theme (such as our successful tracking presentation and the program on woodcocks) seem to have the best attendance, and (2) it would be good to have the general meeting before town meeting starts.
4. Bio-diversity Days, June 11 and 12. FoAGM will sponsor two events. Andrea will lead a pond event from 9:00am to noon on Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup>, and Andrea and Betty Wright will lead a nature walk on Sunday afternoon the 12<sup>th</sup>. Andrea will send David a flier for the web site and kiosks. David will inform the Arlington ConCom.

Russ Cohen program on edible wild plants will be June 23, Thursday, 6-8pm. Andrea will do a flier for the web site and kiosks for this event, also. Mike will get the information on both events to CLC.
5. Japanese Knotweed Project: It was agreed that it is not a problem if we leave the cut-off new shoots on the ground. If we discover them re-rooting, we'll deal with it. It was agreed that we won't begin planting anything yet – new shoots of JKW are apt to emerge from anywhere on the ground, not only near the current clusters of stalks, and they would disrupt any new plantings. Some desirable plants are beginning to grow on their own. Garlic mustard should be pulled every week. Many plants are in flower, including some as short as six inches. JKW cuttings and garlic mustard will be kept in the pile under the black plastic until dry enough to burn. Schedule for weekly maintenance:
  - Wed, May 26 – 27: John
  - Mid week in the week of May 30: David

Mid week around June 8: Don  
Beyond that is TBA.

Eventually we should select plants which are rigorous, competitive with JKW, won't grow tall enough to block the view, and can control erosion.

It was suggested that the garlic mustard growing in areas near the study plot be pulled so their seeds won't end up in the study plot. A work day was discussed, though nothing was scheduled.

6. The Boardwalk: Funds have been approved but not released. Mike is trying to find out where the delay is and whom to contact. No one in MA has gotten the funds yet.
7. Clean-up: Sunday morning, June 5<sup>th</sup>, Mike will lead a clean-up and recruit adult and student volunteers. They'll work on JKW and garlic mustard, too.
8. Monroe Bridge: Mike spoke to the Lexington ConCom and obtained approval to build the bridge. The landowners on either side of the access easement have agreed to it. In discussion of the draft letter, it was agreed that the first letter should seek only agreement on the concept of building the bridge rather than also asking for money. There was consensus that FoAGM will match the first \$250 raised by the landowners and that FoAGM will sponsor the project and authorize Arlington Land Trust to accept donations for it. Roger Yocum will collect the checks from his neighbors and keep them until enough money is raised. The Lexington ConCom will be approached for funds after most of the money been raised by the neighborhood. The letter to the neighborhood will not mention the possibility of obtaining funds from the ConCom. It was confirmed that the access point to the bridge from Orchard Lane is legally an access point for the general public and will remain so. The Yocum letter will be revised to make that point more clearly.
9. Vernal Pool Trips for Grade School Classes: The trips are continuing in May.
10. Andrea is working on a program for girl scouts on invasive plants in the fall, possibly September.
11. Arlington Open Space Committee is asking for management plans for various pieces of land. Mike, David, Roly, Laurel, and Don will work on this
12. Policy on Endorsement of Other Environmental Issues by FoAGM: It was agreed that taking positions as a group on issues not directly affecting AGM was outside our mission statement and might affect our relationship with donors and our relationship with the Arlington Board of Selectmen. It was agreed that we will speak as a group only on issues which "reasonably directly affect AGM".
13. Letter to Landowners near the Sheila Road access point: Behind at least one of the houses in this area which back onto AGM, someone or someones appear to have been cutting down shrubs, saplings, and possibly whole trees on AGM land, apparently to obtain a better view of AGM. It was agreed that

a letter should be written and delivered to landowners in the area informing them that the land behind their plots is AGM, owned by the Town of Arlington, and that no vegetation is can be cut there or any other changes made in the land. Mike agreed to draft a letter. The letter should be accompanied with a map showing the AGM boundaries (perhaps from the Town Assessor's Office). It was reported that the Town of Lexington had good success with illegal dumper by sending such a letter to area residents.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Don Miller