

Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows
Steering Committee
January 16, 2007
(Approved 2/27/07)

Present: David White, Mike Tabaczynski, Sandra Ruggiero, John Bartenstein, Don Miller

1. Minutes of the meeting of December 11, 2006, were approved. The next meeting date was scheduled for Tuesday, February 27.
2. There was a review of the donations to Arlington Land Trust (ALT) that were earmarked for FoAGM in 2006 and 2007 to date. The donors' generosity is very much appreciated.
3. The committee continued to explore possibilities for preserving AGM as conservation land on a long-term basis, including the possible acquisition of a conservation easement by the Town of Lexington, or some other qualified entity, from the Town of Arlington.
4. The committee approved the expenditures necessary to print and mail out 100 copies of the current annual report. The amount is the printing cost of \$126.87 plus up to \$20 for mailing. The list of groups and individuals to whom the report will be sent was reviewed and revised.
5. Preparations for a brief presentation at the annual meeting of ALT were discussed. A rough outline was agreed upon, and Don agreed to write a draft of the presentation.
6. There are still painted rocks on the north side of AGM, painted white to indicate the route for LCA cross country meets. We will review the situation and determine if LCA should be reminded not to make any permanent markings in AGM.
7. An amount of junk, including sofa cushions and some building materials, has built up in the open area next to Peat Pond. Don will remove it.
8. The vandalism of the AGM informational kiosks was discussed. Vandal-proof locking mechanisms are expensive, about \$400 apiece, Mike estimated. We'll discuss further in the future.
9. There was discussion of a possible project to restore and maintain grasslands in some areas of AGM that have been rapidly succeeding to forest land. Mike reported that he had spoken with David Dryden, who recently raised this issue on the FoAGM list-serve, but that Dryden would not be able to lead or participate in such a project. Nevertheless, the committee agreed that this issue is an important one that should be given further consideration and study. David suggested looking at the 2001 Frances Clark report, which contained recommendations for preserving grasslands. John said that he would see whether Harvey Cote, who has been photographing the Meadows for many years, might be able to provide before-and-after photographs documenting vegetational changes in the Meadows.
10. Two more vernal pool classes were taught at Brackett School on Thursday, January 11th. The teaching was done by high school students of the Waldorf School as part of the program which has been going on for several years. As usual, the classes will be followed by a field trip to see a vernal pool at AGM in the spring.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Miller