

**Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows
Steering Committee Meeting
September 27, 2004
Approved 10/26/04**

Present:

David White	Sandra Ruggiero
Mike Tabaczynski	Don Miller
John Bartenstein	Francesca Coltrera, guest

1. Minutes of the previous meeting of August 3, 2004 were approved with one correction of spelling.

2. Next meetings are tentatively scheduled as follows:

- Tuesday, October 26 at 7:30pm It will be Wednesday, October 27th if that is better for those not in attendance tonight.
- Tuesday, November 30 at 7:30pm
- Tuesday, January 11, at 7:30pm.

All these meetings to be held at the old Waldorf High School

2A. Financial Report: Nothing new to report.

3. Coming Events:

- a. East Village Fair, October 2: **Laurel** will organize the booth, including a display of fruits, nuts and seeds; **David** White and **Sandra** will help her staff it.
- b. Nature Walk at AGM: **Laurel** will lead a walk with emphasis on fruits, nuts, and seeds on October 3. It will begin from back of the Waldorf elementary school.
- c. GPS Workshop: **Sandra** will send information to the committee about it.

4. Francesca Coltrera, a volunteer from Brackett School in Arlington, said that seven 1st, 2nd & 3rd grade classes from that school were taught about vernal pools by Sandra's Waldorf High School students and later did field trips to see vernal pools at AGM. She said she would like to know of other opportunities to do educational programs at AGM. She also said there is a need for some way of assisting a person to know where they are while walking in AGM. In the discussion which followed, several suggestions were made:

- a. One suggestion was better marking of trails. It was pointed out that in many areas of AGM there are not trees appropriate for blazing, so some other form of indicating the trail may be necessary in places. Also, it may only be necessary to have trail indicators at key locations.
- b. Another suggestion was installation in some key locations of a post about waist height with an arrow flat on the top of it indicating north; a person with a map could then orient themselves at that spot. The posts could be numbered to match numbered locations on the map, so

the person could know where they are on the map as well as how to orient it.

- c. Another suggestion was to create one or more “self-guided” walks; a single sheet of paper with directions, perhaps a simple map of the route, and suggestions of what to look for at specific spots. The latter could vary from season to season. **Sandra** agreed to draft one such self-guided tour. Francesca said she would distribute such self-guided tours to the teachers in her school. We could also make them available at our website and perhaps at the kiosk(s) as well. [Note that a longer version such a tour written by John Andrews is available from the CLC.]
 - d. It was suggested that we ask the biology teacher at Lexington Christian Academy who has expressed interest in AGM if he would be interested in educational outreach programs such as those done by the Waldorf students. **Sandra** agreed to make a contact.
 - e. Francesca mentioned that a person to keep in contact with at the Arlington Public Schools is Judi Bohn. **Sandra** will contact Ms. Bohn.
5. Adding People to the FoAGM email list. There is a way for a person to add his or her name and address right on the FoAGM web site. We can also email the names and email addresses to David, who will enter them. [Note that to fully function as an administrator of the Yahoo list one needs to have a (free) Yahoo email id.] **Don** agreed to ask Anne Gibbs to get in touch with David to discuss what role, if any, she is now playing in adding names to the email list.
 6. The Trail Grant. Mike has heard unofficially that FoAGM will be awarded the grant, but he has not heard officially yet. Fall is the best time to install a boardwalk, since insects are gone, the weather is cool, and there is less mud. It appears, however, that we will not be able to do it until spring, since the official word must be received, and then arrangements for materials and volunteers must be made. Can we use high school students to help in installation? Yes, but only selected students who have signed up with Mike. We will need four work days with a crew of about 25 to do the whole project. The boardwalk near the bikeway is 200 feet long and could be done in one day, with about 30 people working. We especially need some Arlington people to work on it. It would be good to have a meeting of the general membership a bit before the installation date so as to recruit volunteers. Selectman Charles Lyons is Superintendent/Director of the Shawsheen Vocational School and might be able to get some students involved. Minuteman Vocational School is a possible source of volunteers, also.
 7. Invasives. Mike is still waiting for a response from the Lexington Conservation Commission on our request to do invasives removal – Japanese knotweed along the bikeway. This project will accomplish removal of invasives and also reinstate the view of the wetland from the bikeway.
 8. Scout Projects: An eagle scout candidate was interested in doing a kiosk for AGM, but Mike has not heard back from him. **David** will try to contact him.

9. Harvey Cote's Letter: We have received a letter from Harvey Cote expressing his concern that vegetation has grown up to the point that many former vistas of AGM are no longer vistas at all. Several members agreed that vistas have declined in recent years. There was discussion of whether native plants such as sumacs, birches, and oaks should be cut down to improve vistas. There is also concern that the woodcock breeding ground may be threatened by the growth. It was agreed that members of the Steering Committee will do a walk of AGM with Harvey Cote, suggesting Sunday, October 10, at 3:00pm.
10. Annual Report: **David** agreed to put it together if various members will submit to him lists of activities and accomplishments. **Don** will do invasives. **Sandra** will do education. **Mike** will do resource issues and ask Brian Rehrig for the financial report to be included. **John** will do the Arlington Land Trust arrangements and the bylaws. These pieces should be sent to David by Tuesday, October 19, one week before the October 27 meeting of the Steering Committee.
11. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Miller.

Editing and some additions by David White, 10/8/04

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