

**Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows
Steering Committee Meeting
June 28, 2005**

Approved July 27, 2005.
Meeting held at 55 Bow Street

Present:

David White	Laurel Carpenter
Mike Tabaczynski	Sandra Ruggerio
John Bartenstein	

1. Minutes of the May 2005 meeting were approved with corrections.
2. Next meeting: Tuesday July 26 @ 7:30 pm. Meeting might be at Sandra's home; Laurel will check availability and rate for a room at Follen Church. The former Waldorf High School may be available in the fall.
3. Financial Report: Specifics were not available, but current funds are approximately \$4,000.
4. Educational/Outreach Activities
 - a. Biodiversity day report: Andrea reported a very successful event, once the drop-in structure of the Open House was clarified. Quite a number of families with young children attended. Andrea marked the trail to Infinity Pond; a few instructors were available for hands-on pond-dipping demonstrations. In the future it was suggested that a saw-horse or sandwich board at main entrances might help direct and attract walk-in visitors, as well as opening the chain at the nursing home entrance.
 - b. School programs. Three school programs were planned in follow-up to the fall presentations to 5th graders about vernal pools. One teacher recused herself but sent her class. Overall about 30-40 students participated. Future Waldorf high school programs face a number of logistical obstacles. Now that the high school is no longer near the meadow, getting parents to drive is difficult, and renting a van is expensive and time consuming. David White offered that he may be able to be off some transport assistance, and Sandra acknowledged that she would consider this for next year. Ideally, Sandra would like LCA to take over the program as they are strategically located and it would foster community connections between other schools and the meadow. Arlington High School would also be a candidate, and SC members were asked if anyone could identify a potential personal contact, perhaps a parent of a student, who might be willing to take initiative on this option.
 - c. More green guides need to be printed, but it was recommended that the boardwalks be added to the map prior to reprinting.

d. Russ Cohen edible plants walk: This well-publicized event was very successful; approximately 35 people attended. One-quarter to one-third came because of the AMC listing. Russ Cohen gave an excellent presentation and sold several copies of his book.

5. Boardwalk. The boardwalk construction workday has been scheduled for Saturday, July 23. Mike T. will be in touch with Jennifer Mann regarding an article for the Arlington Advocate and the Minuteman. Notices will also be sent to email lists and to Arlington Land Trust members. David will send a note to the selectmen of Arlington and Lexington. Good publicity is key to getting an adequate number of volunteers. Some logistical planning is needed in terms of designating responsibility for providing lunch, etc.

6. Invasive plant control. John reported that he has worked on the site for several consecutive weeks and would like to see others participate. The informational signage is better than it was, but he suggested adding information to the website. It was agreed that native grasses would be planted in the fall.

9. Organizational: Incumbent officers (David White & Mike Tabaczynski) agreed to extend terms one year, to May 31, 2006. SC members wanted the record to show a vote of confidence and commend the officers for doing a fine job.

Fall planning will begin at the July meeting. John B. will try to get a copy of the Emerson Gardens newsletter. Website to have a separate JKW section. Sandra offered/suggested targeting a walk for EG residents.

Respectfully submitted
Ljc 7/17/2005