

**Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows
Steering Committee Meeting
September 29, 2005**

Approved November 9, 2005
Meeting held at 48 Sanderson Road

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

1. Minutes of the July 2005 meeting were not approved pending corrections. Laurel reminded SC members to review the minutes and submit corrections with attention to missing information.
2. Next meetings: Wednesday October 26 @ 7:30 pm. Location: what is happening on the Waldorf access? November 30 and Jan 11 are the next two meetings.
3. Trails and Public Access: Mike reported on the successful outcome of the longest boardwalk project ever attempted in Lexington, which included volunteer labor from approximately 45 adults and 35 high school students. There was discussion about inviting representatives from the Arlington and Lexington selectman, as well as ALT, ConComs, etc to view the boardwalk. **Mike agreed to prepare a rough draft** of the facts which would form the basis of an invitational letter, and **David agreed to make the final edits** prior to sending the letter. The letter would include language thanking the various groups for their support, and offer to lead a tour of the boardwalk at their convenience. Interested parties would certainly be welcome at the Trail Walk and Talk on Oct 23.

There was a discussion about trail blazes within the meadow, based on a simple system such as white for the main loop, blue for side trails. The question was raised about a few signs indicating the direction way to exit the meadow via the main access points. Mike pointed out that vandalism of similar signs has been a problem in other local sites.

4. Outreach Activities: For the East Village Fair on October 1, Laurel requested items for the booth, such as green brochures and the fabric signage. Reimbursement for \$30 booth fee was approved. Addendum: the FoAGM sign appears to be missing; **Andrea agreed to create a new one**. Reminders were made about the Oct 23 trail walk and Chris Floyd's birdwatching walk on Oct 30.

Publicity: Colonial Times agreed to do an after-the-fact story about the boardwalk, using pictures submitted by David. David, Mike and Laurel agreed to be interviewed.

Kate Fricker of Citizens for Lexington Conservation expressed interest in doing a story on the Japanese knotweed control project. Don Miller agreed to be contacted on this topic.

5. School programs: Sandra is preparing the Waldorf 11th graders to lead field trips to Infinity Pond. David agreed to provide transportation assistance. Francesca has moved on to other projects.

6. Invasive plant control. Don reported that he looked into options for a larger more visible plastic sign, but the price and products didn't seem appropriate for the scope of the project. The decision was made to leave the black plastic in place through the winter, but David agreed to look into native plant mixes that might be scattered this fall. Laurel agreed to visit the site and assess what plants are currently sprouting; Sandra would like to join.

7. Annual report. The goal is to produce the annual report earlier this year, so the following timeline was proposed. Drafts of sections would be prepared in advance of the October meeting in order to be wrapping up the final version at the Nov 30 meeting. It was agreed that each member would be responsible for the same sections as last year, and that the minutes would provide significant data for the report. John will provide general editing assistance.

8. Orchard Lane Bridge: **Mike agreed to prepare a rough plan of the bridge** at the optimum site so that Roger Yocum would have a 'deliverable' with which to garner support from the neighbors.

9. The following items were tabled due to the full agenda: yard waste dumping, land use policy, management plan of Arlington Open Space Committee.

Respectfully submitted
Ljc 10/18/2005