

**Friends of Arlington's
Great Meadows**

1. Name of your organization:

- *The Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows (FoAGM)*

2. Please provide contact name, address, phone number and email address.

- *David E. White, Steering Committee Chair, 55 Bow Street, Arlington, MA 02474*

3. What is your Legal Status: e.g., not for profit, 501 (c) (3), educational.

- *FoAGM is a non-profit, unincorporated association consisting of residents of Lexington, Arlington and beyond who committed to the preservation and stewardship of Arlington's Great Meadows.*
- *Arlington's Great Meadows (AGM) is a 183-acre parcel of open land owned by the Town of Arlington and located in adjacent East Lexington, approximately 600 yards behind the Stone Building. It is the largest natural, undeveloped space in Lexington or Arlington. Long enjoyed by area residents as a place of natural beauty, AGM offers diverse natural habitats, including extensive wetlands, upland forests, meadows, vernal pools, and other natural communities.*
- *FoAGM has entered into a fiscal sponsorship arrangement with the Arlington Land Trust (ALT), a 501(c)(3) organization, under which donors may make tax deductible charitable contributions to ALT for the benefit of FoAGM. The affairs of FoAGM are managed by a six-member Steering Committee which meets monthly.*
- *A copy of FoAGM's most recent Annual Report is attached.*

4. Please describe your intended use of the building or part of the building and how that fits within the deed restrictions.

- *If the Trustees of Cary Memorial Library decide to renovate the Stone Building for use as a public meeting place and/or a reading room for archiving and making available to the public historical and other Town-related documents, this would be an ideal location for FoAGM to:*
 - *Conduct its monthly Steering Committee meetings;*
 - *Store, display and make available for public use its own archival materials on the history of AGM, as well as maps, trail guides, natural resource inventories and other resources; and*
 - *Conduct educational sessions about AGM and its flora, fauna and other natural resources for both adults and schoolchildren*

- *The uses described above would be consistent with the authorized uses of the Stone building as a branch library, a public reading room, a public art museum (for example, photographic exhibitions of AGM have been displayed several times in the Arlington town office buildings and in the State House), and as a meeting place for classes*

5. How would the Lexington community benefit from this use?

- *Since its inception, FoAGM has lacked any permanent location to meet or to house its historical and educational materials. Specifically,*
 - *The Steering Committee has met from time to time in the basement of the Golden Living Center (formerly East Village Nursing Home) near the Emerson Gardens Road entrance to AGM, and in a basement room of The Waldorf School; however, these locations have not been as convenient or accessible to the public as might be desired.*
 - *When the Stone Building was in use as the East Lexington Branch of the Cary Memorial Library, FoAGM was given a small amount of shelf space to house and make available to the public its guidebooks and archival materials; however, since the branch library was closed it has had no location convenient to AGM for this purpose*
- *As the accompanying Annual Report demonstrates, FoAGM has worked in a variety of ways since 2002 to protect and enhance AGM and to encourage its use for education of people of all ages and for the enjoyment of being in nature. It has maintained and improved trails, provided information to guide visitors, organized cleanups, controlled invasive plants, sponsored nature walks, and organized educational programs with local schools. Making available to FoAGM some portion of public space, located in proximity to AGM, where it can meet occasionally and store resource materials would substantially enhance its ability to further its mission*

6. Who would be the intended users?

- *Residents of the Towns of Lexington and Arlington, and also any other members of the public with an interest in AGM*

7. Would the facility be open to the public? By appointment? With regularly scheduled hours? How many hours would it be open to the public?

- *The use contemplated by FoAGM would not be exclusive or continuous, but occasional and as one of a number of users.*

- *As previously noted, FoAGM's Steering Committee meets on an approximately monthly basis*
- *Walks, programs for schoolchildren, and other presentations are conducted periodically, mostly in the warmer months, about twice a month.*
- *All Steering Committee meetings and other activities of FoAGM are open to the public.*

8. How would the facility and proposed use be staffed?

- *The use contemplated by FoAGM would not require any additional staffing*

9. What kind of parking would your facility require for the proposed use?

- *The use contemplated by FoAGM would not require any additional parking facilities or arrangements*

10. What physical renovations, appropriate to a building in an historic district, do you anticipate would be needed?

- *If the facility were renovated for general meeting room and/or reading room use, the use contemplated by FoAGM would require no additional renovations or construction*

11. What furnishings do you anticipate would be needed for the proposed use?

- *Assuming the building were renovated to provide meeting space and some public shelf or display space, FoAGM would require no additional furnishings*

12. Briefly describe the financial/business plan for operating the building for the proposed use. Please explain.

- *FoAGM receives a modest amount of annual charitable contributions, as described in the accompanying Annual Report, which are used for maintenance and study of AGM or for other purposes related to its mission*
- *As FoAGM contemplates being only one of many users should the building be renovated for meetings or archival purposes, it would not anticipate assuming responsibility for operation of the building*

13. Please explain your group's affiliation, if any, with the Town.

- *FoAGM has been authorized by the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Arlington to serve as stewards of AGM, and it works with the Boards of*

Selectmen, the Conservation Commissions, and other appointed and elected officials of the Towns of both Lexington and Arlington to manage cooperatively this unique parcel of open land which one Town owns within the geographical confines of the other

14. Please add any further information in support of your proposal that has not been addressed.

- *Although FoAGM does not expect to be a primary tenant or operator of the Stone Building, it is one of a number of community organizations whose ability to conduct their missions would be significantly enhanced by the ability to use the Stone Building on an occasional basis. Because the Stone Building is uniquely situated in close proximity to AGM, this would be an ideal location for FoAGM.*