

Agenda
1/11/16



TOWN OF ARLINGTON

MASSACHUSETTS

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

January 5, 2016

Steven M. Byrne, Chair
Board of Selectmen
Town of Arlington
730 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, MA 02476

RE: ACROSS Lexington Installation of Signs at Great Meadows and the Reservoir

Dear Chair Byrne and Members of the Select Board:

We wish to provide an update and request your assistance on natural resources shared by the Towns of Arlington and Lexington.

In August of 2014, the Arlington Conservation Commission brought forward a request from ACROSS Lexington¹ to include the existing trails in Arlington's Great Meadows and at Arlington Reservoir in its pedestrian trail network. This proposal included installing "ACROSS Lexington in partnership with Arlington" trail markers on this Arlington-owned land in Lexington. In addition signs would be added when the trail enters Arlington-owned land saying "Entering [Arlington's Great Meadows or Arlington Reservoir] Owned by the Town of Arlington". The Selectmen approved ACROSS Lexington's request in the spirit of inter-Town cooperation.

This project is now complete and the approved signage in place. One major benefit has been the increased awareness by residents of both towns of open space connectivity in this area. The joint collaboration between the two towns has opened up a network of pedestrian and bicycle trails surrounding the Reservoir, Great Meadows and the ACROSS Lexington network. The project has clearly increased passive recreational activity along with a new-found

¹ ACROSS Lexington's website says "ACROSS Lexington (Accessing Conservation land, Recreation areas, Open space, Schools and Streets in Lexington) is a network of pedestrian and bicycle routes that links many parts of the Town of Lexington" and that it is a subcommittee of Lexington's Greenways Corridor Committee.
<http://www.lexingtonma.gov/selectmen/committee/acrosslexington.cfm>

appreciation of these natural areas for all visitors. New maps have been printed, and the new trails have been added both to the ACROSS website and the associated App (see <http://www.lexingtonma.gov/across-lexington>).

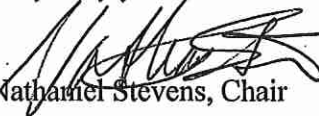
In the hopes of the same spirit of cooperation shown to our Lexington neighbors, we asked, and the Selectmen agreed, to ask the Town of Lexington for cooperation with respect to shared natural areas that residents of both Town's enjoy, namely, maintenance of the Arlington Reservoir. As of today, we are not aware that Lexington has embraced this request for cooperation. Thus we ask again that you make this request. Note also that any financial assistance provided by the Town of Lexington would offset some of the costs associated with Arlington's Water Bodies Fund.

The Town of Arlington Conservation Commission did ask the Town of Lexington, through its Conservation Commission, to contribute to the annual approximately \$20,000 cost to pay the private contractor to remove water chestnuts from the Reservoir. While the Lexington Conservation Commission has been supportive of this request by agreeing to request \$10,000 in their budget, others in Lexington government have not been, so Lexington has not made any cash financial contribution to help Arlington defray the cost of the hiring a contractor with the specialized equipment needed to remove the water chestnuts.

Most of the weed harvesting operations each year have occurred in the approximately 10-acre northern third of the Reservoir – which is mostly in Lexington and adjacent to Rindge Park and LexFarm (the former Busa Farm property). This is because this area contained the highest quantities of the non-native water chestnut plant. Two Lexington storm drains also enter this section of the Reservoir, adding excess nutrients to the water and fostering the invasive plant growth. Lexington residents utilize the trails around the Reservoir, and Lexington has a park adjacent to the Reservoir. With its recent acquisition of LexFarm land, we would think that Lexington would be even more vested in maintaining the health of our shared natural resource.

Thank you for your assistance and consideration of the Commission's request.

Very truly yours,


Nathaniel Stevens, Chair

Enclosure:
ACROSS Map



ACROSS Lexington Routes



Search for the free App
ACROSS LEXINGTON

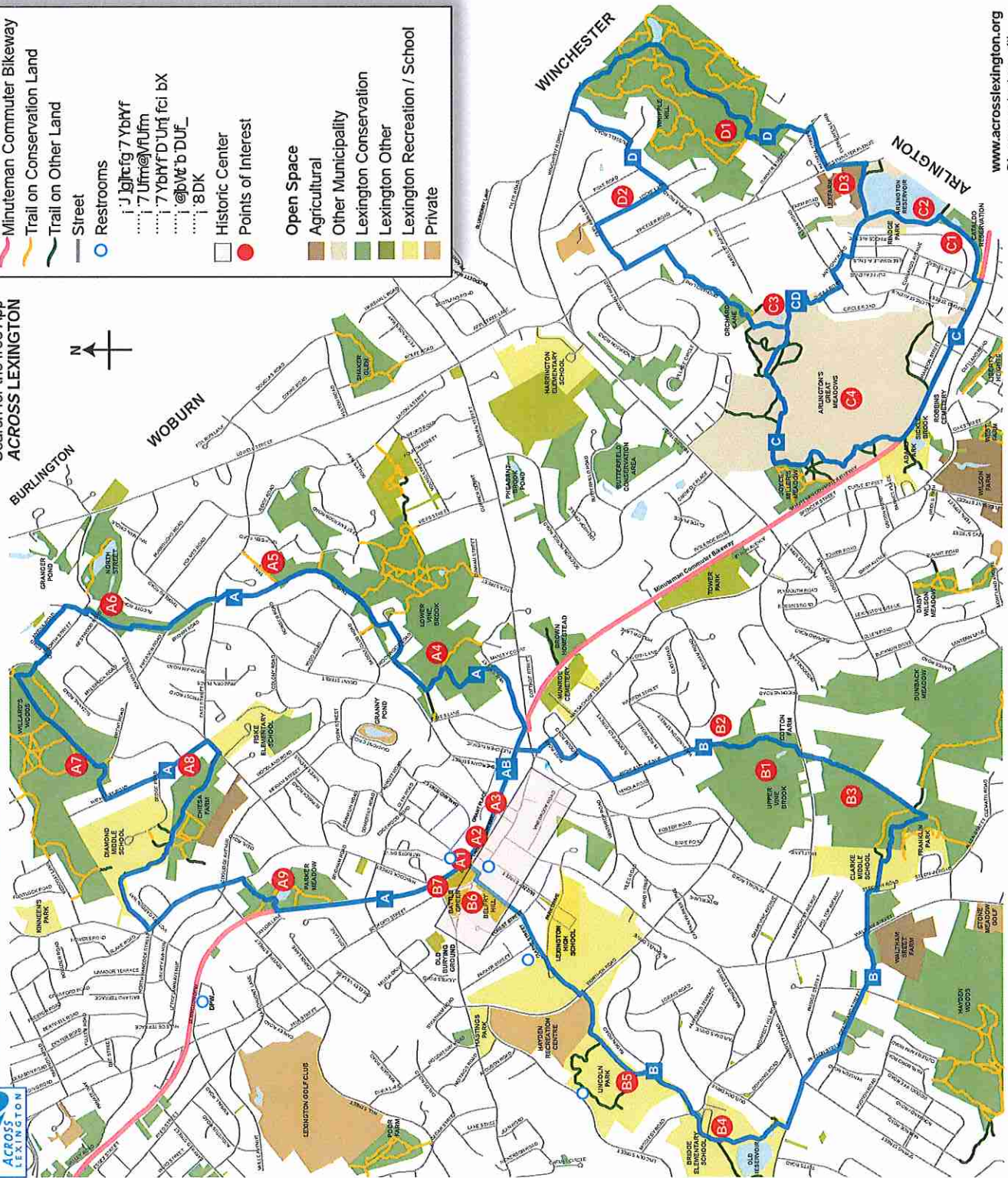


LEGEND

- ACROSS Lexington
- Minuteman Commuter Bikeway
- Trail on Conservation Land
- Trail on Other Land
- Street
- Restrooms
- Historic Center
- Points of Interest

i J Igricfg 7 YbWf
 7 Urn@VUfm
 7 YbWfD Urf fci bx
 i @bWt b DUF_
 i 8DK

Open Space
 Agricultural
 Other Municipality
 Lexington Conservation
 Lexington Other
 Lexington Recreation / School
 Private



www.acrosslexington.org
 Please contact us with
 your feedback.

Points of Interest

Route A (5.4 mi)

the 17th century. It is named for a later owner, Jonas Parker.

Route C (2.6 mi)