

## MINUTES

Heywood Meadow Stewardship Committee Meeting  
Thursday, February 9, 2023, 9:00am  
via Zoom

**Present:** Delia Kaye (Natural Resources Director), Joanne Gibson (Co-Chair), Susan Clark (Co-Chair), Sandy Smith (minutes), Cris Van Dyke, Stan Lucks, Mary Clarke, Lola Chaisson, Peter Lee

The meeting was called to order by Joanne Gibson, Co-Chair, at 9:03 am.

**Minutes of January 5, 2023 Meeting:** On a motion made by Cris Van Dyke and seconded by Lola Chaisson, the minutes were approved unanimously as written.

**Membership:** Joanne Gibson asked Delia Kaye to review her conversation with the Town Clerk who had suggested the following language be added to the Committee's charge relating to membership.

The Heywood Meadow Stewardship Committee shall be comprised of nine members appointed by the Natural Resources Commission. Terms of office shall be renewable every three years at the discretion of the Natural Resources Commission.

With Peter Lee the only member of the Committee already appointed for a 3-year term, Delia went on to describe how she would anticipate the three-year terms being staggered for the rest of the Committee. Joanne Gibson and Susan Clark (Co-Chairs) would serve 3-year terms, and in alphabetical order, committee members would serve terms as follows: Lola Chaisson – 3 years; Mary Clark and Stan Lucks – 2 years; and Murray Nicolson, Sandy Smith, and Cris Van Dyke – 1 year. Following these initial terms, members could be reappointed indefinitely.

Sandy asked how vacancies would be treated. Delia replied that in the event of a vacancy, the newly appointed member would serve out the unexpired term and then be eligible for reappointment.

**Review of the Landscape Plan:** At an earlier meeting, Delia had been asked to propose language for a section of the report on page 25. As she reviewed the document, she found several additional spots to suggest edits, and the Committee reviewed her suggestions in order beginning on page 21 with the sentence:

“The Committee feels this goal does not apply to Ford Park or Lot B.”

Delia asked if this is still the case. After discussion that Walden Street is also a welcoming entry to Concord, the Committee decided to eliminate the sentence entirely.

Moving on to page 22, Delia suggested several straightforward edits in the initial paragraphs with which the Committee agreed, but the sentence

“Lot B is 20% larger than the west meadow and is a natural location for a pollinator meadow due to its sunny location at the westerly end of a necklace of conservation land and open space

which begins at the Hapgood Wright Town Forest and ends with the community gardens nearby on Walden Street.”

provoked some discussion. Delia felt that this sentence in combination with the preceding language (already deleted), suggested that all of the effort to promote pollinator friendly plantings was to be focused on Lot B, whereas all native plants, including the native grasses on the east and west meadows, provide valuable habitat for pollinators. She emphasized that the Committee should encourage native grasses just as much as forbs because of the value native grasses provide as pollinator habitat. The Committee agreed to delete this sentence.

On page 22, in the first paragraph following the third goal (“Evoke the agricultural past...”), Delia asked that Sandy identify the reference to “narrowing” the mission statement in the following sentence:

“Nevertheless, identifying ‘historically appropriate plantings, fencing, walls, and field management practices’ would be much easier if the mission statement of the Committee is narrowed as discussed above.”

Sandy located the reference in the text following the first goal (“Emphasize Heywood Meadow...”) on page 21, where the text makes the observation that one of the challenges to determining appropriate treatment of the Meadow is that the period for rehabilitation is described as “the period from Colonial settlement through Concord’s Literary Renaissance.” After discussion, the Committee asked Sandy to reword that sentence. The proposed language follows:

“Nevertheless, identifying “historically appropriate plantings, fencing, walls, and field management practices” is challenging because the Meadow was put to a wide variety of uses during the broad historical period from Concord’s Colonial settlement through its Literary Renaissance.”

Several other edits on that page were approved before the Committee moved on to page 23 where the Committee discussed the last sentence of the paragraph dealing with the stone wall on Lot B. After some discussion, Sandy volunteered to rewrite the following sentence:

“The Committee will discuss replacing the wall when it develops a specific plan to implement a pollinator meadow on Lot B.”

The proposed language is:

“The Committee will address the future of this wall at a later date after a decision has been made by the Town on reconfiguring the Walden Street/Heywood Street intersection which was proposed by the Committee.”

The Committee then moved on to page 24 and approved a number of edits proposed by Delia but stopped to discuss the reference to the dead tulip tree in the last paragraph.

“When a large maple along the Lexington Road in Lot A died several years ago, it was replaced with a tulip tree, which was found dead in the spring of 2021.”

Sandy was asked to revise the language. The proposed text follows:

“When a large maple along Lexington Road in Lot A died several years ago, it was replaced with a tulip tree which, in turn, did not survive the winter of 2021.”

On page 25, the Committee approved several additional edits suggested by Delia, but stopped at the first of the two proposed new goals and discussed it at length. The original text read:

“Implement the Town’s biodiversity goals by removing invasive species from Lot B and take advantage of its proximity to the Hugh Cargill community gardens to create a dedicated pollinator meadow with emphasis on plant and flower diversity.”

Delia suggested that text be edited as follows, removing the reference to the Hugh Cargill community gardens:

“Implement the Town’s biodiversity goals by removing invasive species from Lot B and create a dedicated pollinator meadow with an emphasis on plant diversity.”

Sandy felt it was important to mention the context in which the Committee’s goal for Lot B was conceived. He pointed out that Lot B is the final parcel in a necklace of wooded and open parcels on alternating sides of the street which make Walden Street unique among the access roads to Concord Center; no other access road is this undeveloped at such close proximity to the Milldam. Beginning at Route 2 with the Hapgood Wright Town Forest and continuing toward the Milldam, are the following parcels: the Town’s well site, the meadow behind Alcott School, the community gardens, the agricultural land opposite the community gardens which is traversed by the Emerson-Thoreau Amble, and finally Lot B. The Committee adopted Delia’s language and Sandy was encouraged to find another location in the text to make this point.

On page 26, the Committee agreed with several additional edits suggested by Delia. She had no further edits to suggest in the document after page 26.

Joanne then directed the Committee’s attention to the draft Charge prepared by Sandy a number of months ago following the format of two other committee charges (the Pollinator Health Advisory Committee Charge adopted July 17, 2017 and amended through May 21, 2020, and the Concord Center Cultural District Committee Charge adopted October 29, 2018) which he felt represent the Town’s current practice of drafting such documents.

Delia led off by saying she is not fond of the practice of some other Town committees of prescribing membership and she felt the Duties and Responsibilities were too specific. While agreeing that the Committee, in fact, did do all of the things listed in the Duties and Responsibilities section, she felt the list should be shorter and more generalized. Other members shared her views. Sandy replied that in the Membership section, he was simply trying to institutionalize the current practice of having neighbors and a representative of the Battery on the Committee and felt the makeup of the Committee should reflect the various constituencies of the Meadow, some of which could add value from their own experience managing meadows elsewhere in the town.

Lola suggested that the description of membership of the Committee be more generalized by indicating that when a vacancy on the Committee is being filled, “consideration” would be given to the Meadow’s

different constituencies. There was general agreement that neighbors and the Battery would always be represented on the Committee.

Delia agreed to work with Sandy before the March meeting to prepare a redraft of these two sections which would be mutually agreeable.

**Next Meetings:** March 9<sup>th</sup> (via Zoom); April 12<sup>th</sup> (in person)

**Adjournment:** Mary moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:17am, seconded by Cris.

**Action Items:**

1. Sandy will provide a clean copy of the revised Landscape Plan before the next meeting. The original text will be in black typeface, and the new language will be in a contrasting color. Sandy will send it in pdf form with the date of the document listed in the Subject line.
2. Delia will work with Sandy before the March meeting to prepare a redraft of the Membership section and the Duties and Responsibilities section of the revised Charge.
3. The Town Clerk will attend an upcoming meeting to swear in those members of the Committee not already sworn in.
4. Peter will coordinate a small group to think more about providing educational materials for the public.
5. Delia will continue to keep an eye out for news on the Traffic Committee to ensure the Committee's proposal to rethink the Heywood Street/Walden Street intersection does not fall through the cracks.