

## MINUTES

Heywood Meadow Stewardship Committee Meeting

Thursday February 11, 2021

Via Zoom

Present: Delia Kaye (Natural Resources Director), Joanne Gibson (Co-Chair), Susan Clark (Co-Chair), Murray Nicolson, Sandy Smith (minutes), Cris van Dyke, Lola Chaisson, Bev Miller

The meeting was called to order by Joanne Gibson at 9:02am.

**Minutes of January 14, 2021 Meeting:** Minutes of the January meeting were not ready for approval.

Joanne Gibson indicated this meeting was called for the sole purpose of reviewing a request from the Umbrella Arts Center to place three sculptures on Heywood Meadow in the spring. She asked Delia Kaye to review the proposal, a copy of which was sent to each member of the Committee in advance of the meeting and which is appended to these minutes for the record.

Delia said she had been contacted by Arts & Environment Program Coordinator Caroline Provost to see if there was any interest in having public art on the Town's conservation land in connection with the Umbrella's Earth Day celebration. Because of the limitations imposed by COVID-19, the Umbrella plans to have an informal "public art walk" over a period of seven weeks in lieu of their traditional Earth Day parade. Delia said the three pieces of art proposed for Heywood Meadow are only a few of the installations planned. Other pieces are potentially planned for Mill Brook Way, the National Park, and the Old Manse. She then showed a map of the Meadow and indicated where three installations might be placed: one in Ford Park, one in the middle of the west Meadow, and one just south of the path toward the Gun House end of the east Meadow. In suggesting the location in the east Meadow, Delia said she tried to identify a location that would not interfere with Battery activities or the courtship and nesting activities of the bluebirds. She said the size and form of the pieces of art have not yet been established, but she anticipates they will be similar to the art work installed as part of the Musketaquid's Art Ramble along the Amble in the fall in recent years.

Questions followed from the Committee. Susan Clark: Will trucks need access to the Meadow to deliver the pieces of sculpture? Will holes need to be dug for installation? Sandy Smith: Do we have any sense of the size of the pieces? Will the pieces be stationary or move with air currents? Bev Miller: Can the pieces be vetted ahead of installation? Cris van Dyke shared her concern that the location in the west Meadow was "dead center" where the plugs had been planted last fall. Joanne expressed her concern that the art not look like some of the large, brightly colored pieces often displayed on the Umbrella's Stow Street lawn, and cautioned that there should be very strict conditions to protect the Meadow. Delia responded to these questions, saying any holes required would be no bigger than those required to plant a small tree, but she didn't know anything yet about the size, materials, or structure of the art

itself because the call for art had just recently gone out. She also said it would not be appropriate for the Committee to get involved in vetting individual pieces of art.

Joanne expressed her concern about setting a precedent, then referred to several sections of the 2005 Landscape Plan which were intended to provide general guidance should requests like this ever arise.

- Page 22. **Pedestrian Circulation:** “The meadow should be a welcoming and accessible place for people who wish to visit but should retain its character as a historic meadow as distinct from a park.”
- Page 23. **Structures and Small-scale Features:** “Plaques and other commemorative markers are not consistent with the rustic character of the meadow and should be prohibited.”
- Page 24. **Use and Special Events:** “Most public landscapes, especially those such as Heywood Meadow, are under constant pressure for uses that may or may not be appropriate.... Follow established guidelines for what uses and activities are allowed. Establish special events procedures for use of the meadow as is consistent with town conservation land.”

Susan said she was also concerned about setting precedent, but pointed to another section of the 2005 Landscape Plan which she interpreted to support these kinds of activities:

- Page 24. **Education/Interpretation/Outreach:** “Involve other civic and community groups in activities to increase awareness and support for Heywood Meadow.”

Cris suggested that because of the pandemic, a decision to approve the request wouldn't necessarily set a precedent.

Delia then reviewed the Concord Conservation Land Regulations. She issues 10-20 permits each year under these regulations. She feels the art installation on the Amble is the most relevant to this request, and because this request, like the Amble, is temporary, she is inclined to consider it favorably. One of the conditions common to the permits she issues is that any disturbance caused by the activity be returned to pre-existing conditions by the permittee.

Joanne asked Delia if she has issued permits for use of other open spaces such as the Old Calf Pasture or Mattison Field. Delia replied she has not issued permits for the Old Calf Pasture because of rare wild violets found there, but did issue permits for use of the adjacent boat launch before the Musketaquid group moved the launch site for their boat parade downstream to the Old Manse. She pointed to Mill Brook Way as a reasonably open space and said she isn't particularly concerned about size, citing the sculptures created at each Drop Off/Swap Off. Joanne suggested there might be alternative spaces such as the meadow behind Alcott School, but Delia pointed out that area lacked a trail.

Lola Chaisson asked if members of the Committee had seen the art installed in Fairyland. Sandy pointed out that those pieces are in the woods and not visible from the street. He recalled the large orange “wing” installed on the Old Manse field several years ago which many people felt was inappropriate. Sandy then reported that at its meeting on February 1<sup>st</sup>, the Select Board cancelled all “public” events related to Patriots Day, but left the door open for the Battery to fire its dawn salute. He said the location

of the dawn salute, if it occurs, has not been determined. In recent years, the Battery has fired from the Old Manse Field, but permission has not yet been granted by the Trustees of Reservations. Firing from Heywood Meadow, in the same location the Battery uses on Memorial Day, would be the Battery's back-up plan. Joanne pointed out that the art installation would still be up on Memorial Day. Cris asked if one piece of art would affect the Battery's activities, adding that if so, it could be moved to the other side of the path. Delia shared her screen once again and showed the proposed location on the east Meadow relative to where the Battery sets up and fires on Memorial Day.

Joanne asked each member of the Committee to summarize their thinking. Sandy said he was comfortable with the Ford Park and west Meadow locations, but had concerns about the east meadow location because of the uncertainty about the Battery's activities on Patriots Day and Memorial Day. Susan said she favored participating in the event because of the pandemic conditions, and could support all three locations. Bev said she likes the idea of participating in this event and favors all three locations, but hopes the Umbrella and the Committee will work with Sandy and the Battery to identify a location on the east Meadow that is suitable. Cris favored all three locations, saying she feels this is great outreach and a good opportunity to bring people into the Meadow. Murray Nicolson was all for it, felt it is a good use of conservation land, and would be good exposure for the Committee. Lola was all for it also and loved the idea of public art on the Meadow. Joanne said she had no concern about Ford Park, but not wanting to constrain Battery activities in any way on their two primary Town ceremonies, suggested that two pieces of sculpture be located on the west Meadow, one near the stairs and one near the sidewalk between the path and the Mill Brook. She also expressed concern about pedestrian safety if people were required to cross Heywood Street to get to the installation on the east Meadow.

Sandy asked Delia if she had suggested the three locations or if they were proposed by Caroline Provost. Delia replied the locations emerged from an organic discussion. She agreed that Joanne had a legitimate point about traffic on Heywood Street, and felt there would be enough space on the west Meadow for two pieces of sculpture.

Sandy moved: The Heywood Meadow Stewardship Committee approves the request made by the Umbrella to locate three pieces of sculpture on Heywood Meadow from April 12, 2021 to June 1, 2021, with one piece of sculpture to be located in Ford Park and two pieces of sculpture to be located on the west Meadow in locations, and with conditions, to be worked out with Delia Kaye.

The motion failed for lack of a second.

Cris moved: The Heywood Meadow Stewardship Committee approves the request made by the Umbrella to locate three pieces of sculpture on Heywood Meadow from April 12, 2021 to June 1, 2021, with one piece of sculpture to be located in Ford Park, one piece on the west Meadow, and one piece on the east Meadow, the latter to be in a location mutually acceptable to the Umbrella and the Battery, and further, that if no such mutually acceptable location can be found, a second piece of sculpture may be located on the west Meadow, all locations and conditions to be worked out with Delia Kaye.

The motion was seconded by Bev and approved by roll call vote with Joanne and Sandy abstaining.

Lola then suggested that Delia mention the Committee's concern about pedestrian safety to Caroline Provost and let her know that if, upon reflection, the Umbrella decides to have all three sculptures on the west side of Heywood Street, the Committee would support their decision.

A brief discussion of conditions ensued. There was broad agreement that this approval was dependent on the current pandemic conditions and would not set a precedent. Instead of trying to condition the approval on specific characteristics of the art - size, structure, materials, etc. - Susan suggested the art be “appropriate to a meadow setting.” Cris suggested the installations not “adversely affect the Meadow.” Delia will develop final language for the permit.

Lola moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:05am. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.