

## MINUTES

Heywood Meadow Stewardship Committee Meeting  
Thursday, April 13, 2023, 9:00am

**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 9:05 am.

Joanne asked for a moment of silence to remember Murray Nicolson who passed away on April 1st, and to reflect on his long service to the Committee.

**Minutes of February 9, 2023 Meeting:** On a motion made by Lola Chaisson and seconded by Cris Van Dyke, the minutes were approved unanimously as written.

**Minutes of March 9, 2023 Meeting:** On a motion made by Cris Van Dyke and seconded by Stan Lucks, the minutes were approved unanimously as written.

**Update from Delia Kaye:** Delia shared an aerial photograph of the Meadow on a large computer screen to show the Committee the location of a maple tree in the east meadow along Lexington Road which is at risk. Delia recommended that it be removed and replaced with another sugar maple this spring. The Committee discussed the advantages and disadvantages of planting maples in that area compared to oak, sweetgum, and black gum. The Committee supported Delia's recommendation to remove the ailing maple and replace it with another sugar maple, with sweetgum, black gum, and oak as alternates in case a sugar maple is not available.

Peter Lee reported that the Permanent Memorial subcommittee of the Concord 250<sup>th</sup> Committee is contemplating planting 250 trees around Concord. Delia indicated that subcommittee has been working primarily with the Town's Tree Warden on this plan. She said there didn't seem to be a need to plant additional trees on any of the 1500 acres of conservation land as much of it is already forested, and the NRC intends to keep the meadows open.

Delia then proposed that the Committee take the initiative to apply for CPA funds to replace the concrete capped wall on the west side of Heywood Street but let CPW do the work since it is in the public right of way. The Committee supported that recommendation.

Finally, Delia reported that she has heard nothing yet from the Traffic Committee in response to the Heywood Meadow Stewardship Committee's proposal to redesign the intersection at Heywood Street and Walden Street.

**Final Discussion of the updated Heywood Meadow Landscape Plan:** Sandy Smith reviewed the package of materials sent to the Committee on Wednesday. Susan Clark said she had read through the clean copy and thinks it hangs together very well. Cris moved to approve Section 1 and Section 4 of the revised Landscape Plan and Lola offered a second. The motion was adopted unanimously. The Committee offered their sincere appreciation to Sandy for the tremendous effort that he has put into

this project, noting that without his dedication and perseverance that the update would not have been possible.

The Committee discussed the format the revised Plan should take and concluded that a Foreword should be added so readers would understand the reasons for the different color type face; black for the original 2005 text and blue for the new 2023 text. Members also discussed adding a section containing additional images, although the exact format and location was not decided.

Sandy handed out a drawing copied from the Concord Journal of the proposal to place a visitors center on the west meadow which was the intent of Article 26 at Town Meeting in c. 1985.

Sandy reviewed the text of the proposed revised charge for the Committee which had been discussed at the March 9, 2023 meeting. He indicated the only new language added was “but not limited to” in the second paragraph in the section on Membership. The resulting sentence reads:

When filling a vacancy, the Commission will endeavor to see that the various constituencies of the Meadow are represented on the Committee, including but not limited to the Concord Independent Battery and neighbors.

Cris Van Dyke moved approval of the charge as written. Mary Clarke seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Susan volunteered to host a get together in June to celebrate the conclusion of nearly three years of work by the Committee.

**Discussion of Spring Schedule including Patriots Day and landscaping:** Sandy reviewed the Battery’s schedule for Patriots Day which is expected to begin at 6:00am with the arrival of several horse trailers and conclude about 3:00pm.

At the next meeting, Joanne said she would like to begin discussions about filling the vacancy on the Committee.

**Adjournment:** Joanne adjourned the meeting at 10:06am.

**Action Items:**

1. The Town Clerk will attend an upcoming meeting to swear in those members of the Committee not already sworn in.
2. Peter will coordinate a small group to think more about providing educational materials for the public.
3. Delia will continue to keep an eye out for news from the Traffic Committee to ensure the HMSC’s proposal to rethink the Heywood Street/Walden Street intersection does not fall between the cracks.

4. The Committee will work with Delia and Stan Lucks to prepare an application for CPA funds to rebuild the concrete capped wall on the west side of Heywood Street. Applications are typically due in September for approval at the next following annual town meeting which would be in the spring of 2024.
5. The Committee will begin to discuss filling the vacancy on the Committee.