



MINUTES

Heywood Meadow Stewardship Committee Meeting
Thursday, April 21, 2022
141 Keyes Road, 2nd Floor Conference Room

Present: Delia Kaye (Natural Resources Director), Joanne Gibson (Co-Chair), Susan Clark (Co-Chair), Sandy Smith (minutes), Mary Clarke, Lola Chaisson, Murray Nicholson, Cris Van Dyke

It was noted that Beverly Miller announced she is relocating to VT and has therefore resigned from the Committee effective immediately.

The meeting was called to order by Joanne Gibson, Co-Chair, at 9:10 am.

Minutes of October 21, 2021 Meeting: The minutes of the meeting of October 21, 2021 were not approved pending review by Delia Kaye.

Minutes of February 10, 2022 Meeting: The minutes of the meeting of February 10, 2022 were not available.

Guest: Joanne Gibson said she had invited Nancy Fresella-Lee to attend the meeting but a conflict had developed and Nancy was unable to attend.

Discussion of Planting Plans:

Tulip Tree Replacement: Delia reported that the Public Works Department will fund the purchase of a sugar maple tree to replace the tulip tree that died in 2021 on the Lexington Road side of the East Meadow. The Committee was offered a tree with 2 – 2 ½” caliper (approximately 10’ – 12’ in height) or a tree with 3 – 3 ½” caliper (approximately 14’ – 16’ in height). In response to a question about planting even larger caliper trees which would “take their place” sooner among the mature trees along the stone wall, Susan noted that a recent article (which she subsequently shared with the Committee via email) made the case that planting smaller caliper trees actually enhances their rate of growth compared to planting larger caliper trees. After discussion, the Committee selected the 3 – 3 ½” size tree. Availability of water was discussed, and Sandy Smith pointed out that there is water at the Gun House that could be used if it would be more convenient than using the water source in the island at the junction of Heywood Street and Lexington Road.

Pollinator Meadow: Delia reported that she and Will Holden, Land Manager, have developed some ideas for the area along Walden Street that the Committee has decided to develop into a pollinator meadow. They plan to lay out the boundary of an initial area to focus on and “solarize” it before planting anything. The Committee can then inspect the area on a future visit to the meadow, perhaps at the next meeting on May 12th. Susan Clark asked about available water. None is evident, although Mary Clarke asked if Mill Brook water could be used, but Delia indicated the Town can provide water from a tank truck if necessary.

Review of Action items from the February 10th meeting:

1. **Battery parking:** nothing to report; Delia and Sandy need to get together on the East Meadow to discuss the site and develop a plan.

2. Photos of Walden Street/Heywood Street corner: Joanne has been away until recently and has also been focused on the Scenic Roads By-Law (Article 30 at Town Meeting) so she has not had a chance to follow-up on this.
3. Survey of soil conditions/plan for new pollinator garden/plan for replacing trees on the East Meadow: the survey of soil conditions should be postponed until after the solarization is completed; Delia and Will already have a plan to propose which will be reviewed by the Committee at an onsite visit; no other tree planting is expected on the East Meadow other than the sugar maple (discussed above).
4. Article in the Concord Journal: An article appeared in the March issue of the Concord Journal highlighting the work of a CCHS volunteer who has worked with Will to remove invasives along the Brook in the West Meadow. The article was initially drafted by Bev Miller (former Committee member) and reviewed and edited by Susan Clark. The Committee felt it was exceedingly well done and provided good exposure in town for one of the signature efforts of the Committee.
5. Acquire bench for Ford Park: Delia will follow-up and arrange for a bench to be placed in Ford Park facing the Mill Brook. Installing a picnic table was discussed but the Committee felt it would invite litter and was rejected.
6. Remove galvanized posts: These posts are in the West Meadow along the sidewalk next to two granite posts. Delia will have them removed.
7. Committee membership: It was agreed there would be value in having someone on the Committee who is knowledgeable about grasses. Cris Van Dyke volunteered to speak with someone in the Concord Garden Club who might be a current resource to help the Committee identify grasses until an opening occurs on the Committee which could be filled by a candidate with that expertise.

Discussion of Final Rewrite of the Landscape Plan: Sandy asked the Committee to refer to page 25 of the redlined copy of the Landscape Plan, beginning with the **Landscape Character Recommendations** section. He guided the Committee through the text noting that there was significant redundancy in this section and that most of the matters had already been covered in prior discussions, and that no further discussion was needed.

The Committee paused at the section on **Pedestrian Circulation** to discuss the statement that “the Committee remains committed to establishing a crosswalk in this location [mid-block on Heywood Street], subject to approval of the Traffic Management Group.”

Sandy made a case for moving the proposed crosswalk toward Walden Street where traffic comes to a 4-way stop instead of having it cross Heywood Street mid-block. Joanne noted there is a “Yield” sign on the curve where Walden Street merges onto Heywood Street which could be changed to a “Stop” sign to increase safety if a crossing were to be created there. After discussion on the merits, the Committee decided to revisit this proposal at its next meeting on the Meadow so the Committee could see how such a crosswalk might tie into a trail or walkway in the new pollinator meadow as well as the existing path through the East Meadow.

Due to time constraints, Joanne suggested the **Administrative Management Recommendations** section be taken up at a future meeting.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Committee will be on May 12th at 9:00am on the Walden Street lot.

Adjournment: On a motion made by Lola Chaisson, the meeting adjourned at 10:30am.

Action Items:

1. Battery parking (Delia & Sandy)
2. Photos of Walden Street/Heywood Street corner (Joanne)
3. Soil survey (Delia, Susan & Cris)
4. Sugar maple (Delia)
5. Bench for Ford Park (Delia)
6. Remove galvanized posts (Delia & Will)
7. Committee membership – identify someone with expertise in grasses (All members)