



MINUTES

Heywood Meadow Stewardship Committee Meeting
Thursday, June 16, 2022
141 Keyes Road, 1st Floor Conference Room

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

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

Minutes of February 10, 2022 Meeting: Approval of these minutes was not listed on the Agenda for the meeting so no action was taken. They will be on the Agenda for approval at the July meeting.

Minutes of April 21, 2022 Meeting: The minutes of the meeting of April 21, 2022 had been approved at the May meeting subject to two amendments. The text of the amendments was reviewed by the Committee, but no action was required.

Minutes of May 12, 2022 Meeting: On a motion made by Cris Van Dyke and seconded by Sandy Smith, these minutes were approved as presented.

Discussion of Meadow Maintenance: Joanne began by saying the Meadow is looking unkept. Delia Kaye explained she only has been able to fill half of the summer positions (i.e. one of two positions). Other Concord employers are willing to pay more for inexperienced help. Joanne explained her principal concern is with the verges, the edges of the Meadow, the Sumac, and the Dock. Delia indicated it is her intention to get to this as soon as she can.

Updates:

Possible Stop Sign at Walden and Heywood Streets: Delia reported the Fire Chief is willing not only to consider a Stop sign on the curve onto Heywood Street from Walden Street, but elimination of that curve altogether. He suggested the Committee write a letter to the Traffic Management Group advocating for the change. Joanne volunteered to write the letter and Delia will contribute an aerial map of the corner.

Repair Stone Retaining Wall on Heywood Street: Delia reported this project remains on DPW's work plan but she warned the Committee not to expect it will be addressed soon given other things on DPW's plate. Joanne noted one of the white wooden rails on the in-Town side of the bridge is aslant.

Battery Parking: Sandy will call Delia on July 12th to schedule a meeting with her on the Meadow to look at the parking potential behind the Gun House with the intent of reporting at the July meeting of the Committee.

Ford Park Bench: Delia reported she is planning to acquire an identical bench for Assabet Bluff, but that is still a couple of months down the road.

Repainting the Walden Street Utility Box: The Committee reviewed if it wanted to paint the utility box at all because it might call more attention to it, but the feeling was that if it were to be painted with ferns or wildflowers it would make it appear recessive which would be an improvement. Delia will mark invasives to be cut within the area DPW staked out for their vehicular access.

Lisa Standley's Grass Inventory: Lisa has visited the Meadow once and will return in mid-summer to see if the census of grasses has changed. At her first visit, she found many non-native grasses along with just three natives, deertongue, Indian nutgrass, and Little Bluestem.

Pollinator Planting on Walden Street: Delia reported that she, Susan and Cris are doing prep work now and are aiming to plant in the fall. She said their current thinking is to put plugs in and not define the area with sharp edges, preferring to make it appear more naturalized.

Metal Posts: Joanne provided an update on her research on the metal posts in the West Meadow. She has had several exchanges with Ann Forbes and they both recall the gate between the metal and granite posts, which had been affectionately referred to as the "bed springs," had been removed a few years ago. The gate led to a driveway which led to the root cellar. Susan Clark expressed her view that maintaining the layers of history is important. Mary Clarke asked if the Committee could provide this history using QR codes. Delia expressed concern that resources would need to be provided to prepare the content and keep it up to date. There was general agreement that we could at least post a QR code which would link to Ann Forbes' history of the Meadow and to the 2005 Landscape Plan, neither of which would need updating. Sandy volunteered to look in the memoir of Charles Fay Heywood prepared by the Social Circle to see if it contained any additional information on the uses of the West Meadow.

Continuing Review of the Landscape Plan: Sandy asked the Committee to begin on page 31 with the *Administrative Management Recommendations: Protection Mechanisms*. He noted that Lot 12A across Lexington Road from the East Meadow is owned by the Town for "municipal purposes," not conservation. That exposes the Meadow to a possible municipal use which could be anathema to the Committee despite the oversight of the Historic Districts Commission. Delia produced the deed under which this lot was conveyed to the Town in 1984 and noted the limitations on use, to wit: "Said premises may be landscaped in a park like manner. A dwelling unit may never be built on said premises. Benches and structures consistent with a park like use, and monuments may be constructed on said premises." Discussion moved on to the section on *Surrounding Streets*, page 32. The Committee acknowledged its interest in keeping signage to a minimum, and also saw that this section would apply to its interest in reworking the Heywood Street/Walden Street corner. No changes in wording were suggested.

That ended to review of the 2005 Landscape Plan. Sandy will make the changes to his summer 2021 draft by reviewing the minutes of the Committee's meetings during the past year, and present it for final review by the Committee in the fall.

Susan, Joanne, Mary and Delia asked that a copy of the draft dated September 2, 2021, be sent to them. Sandy will do this before the next meeting.

Adjournment: Susan adjourned the meeting at 10:24am.

Action Items:

1. Stop sign at Heywood Street / Walden Street; letter drafted by Joanne
2. Battery parking behind Gun House
3. Repainting the Walden Street Utility Box
4. Lisa Standley's grass inventory
5. Pollinator Planting Plan along Walden Street
6. Charles Fay Heywood Memoir
7. Copies of September 2, 2021 Draft Landscape Plan to Susan, Joanne, Mary and Delia