

MINUTES

Heywood Meadow Stewardship Committee
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
Thursday, July 20, 2023, 9:00am

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

Guests: David Bell, Isabel Bailey

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

Minutes of June 8, 2023 Meeting: On a motion made by Mary Clarke and seconded by Cris Van Dyke, the minutes were approved unanimously as written.

Update from Delia Kaye: Delia Kaye reported that the Meadow was looking good; paths have been mowed regularly; artemisia has been cut; Japanese stiltgrass behind the Gun House has been removed as has the swallow-wort near the Engerman's lot line; and the steps in the west meadow have been weeded. Cris noted that there is a stand of black swallow-wort on the east meadow about 2/3rds of the way toward the Gun House. Joanne indicated there is sumac growing in the Meadow that should be cut or removed. Sandy Smith noted there are numerous plants in the west meadow that have grown taller than six feet in height. It was his understanding that the DNR staff had agreed to manage the height of such plants to maintain open views across to the east meadow. Susan Clark indicated the tall sunflowers are okay. Delia said she is aware of the sunflowers, but asked Sandy to send photos of the plants he referenced. Delia went on to note that the galvanized posts along the sidewalk on the west side of Heywood Street have not yet been removed but are on the "to do" list.

Joanne asked about the pollinator garden planted along Walden Street in the fall. Delia replied the first year is never great because it takes the plants a while to take hold.

Joanne asked if there was any word from the Traffic Management Group in response to the Committee's letter dated July 6, 2022. Delia said she has not received any reply or indication the matter was under consideration.

Joanne asked if there was any progress on replacing the retaining wall along the west side of Heywood Street near the Brook. Stan Lucks said he plans to meet with Stan Nobles to discuss the grade issues and will share a proposed work plan at the next meeting of the Committee.

Review of Photos of Heywood Meadow for Inclusion in the Revised Plan: Susan Clark noted the minutes of the June 8th meeting contained a list of about ten photos which had been reviewed by the Committee for inclusion in the Revised Plan. Members of the Committee have additional photos that they were encouraged to send to Delia for review by the Committee, and Delia agreed to insert them in the text. Sandy suggested that it might be appropriate to insert one photo to represent each Goal and Recommendation, but not to insert photos in Sections 2 and 3 of the Revised Plan, letting them stand as originally written. Another member suggested that the cover photo also be changed.

Lola Chaisson reported that she continues to work on the map of the Meadow which will replace the map by Pam Pettingill in the 2005 Plan. Her work is now focused on coloring in the map. Once completed, she will send it to Delia to add to the Revised plan.

Mary Clarke asked about the timing of producing the final report. The Committee decided to aim to resolve the photo selection and placement at the August 10th meeting with the "soft" objective of having the final Revised Plan produced by the September 14th meeting.

New Member: Joanne suggested that the Committee continue to think about prospective new members to fill the vacancy created by the death of Murray Nicolson.

Adjournment: Joanne adjourned the meeting at 9:58am.

Action items:

1. Sandy to send photos of tall plants to Delia.
2. Members to send additional photos to Delia for inclusion in the Revised Plan.
3. Lola to send her final map of the Meadow to Delia to replace the original by Pam Pettingill.
4. Stan to prepare work plan for replacement of retaining wall along sidewalk in west meadow.
5. Delia to monitor Traffic Management Group for any response to the Committee's letter dated July 6, 2022.
6. Delia to have galvanized posts removed.
7. Peter Lee's sub-committee on educational materials to continue its thinking about the nature and location of signage and use of QR codes to minimize the number and size of signs in the Meadow.
8. Delia to make arrangements for one additional bench in Ford Park.
9. All members to continue to think about potential new members.