

MINUTES

Heywood Meadow Stewardship Committee
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
Thursday, August 10, 2023, 9:00am

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

The meeting was called to order by Joanne Gibson, Co-Chair, at 9:04 am.

Minutes of July 20, 2023 Meeting: On a motion made by Cris Van Dyke and seconded by Lola Chaisson, the minutes were approved unanimously as amended.

Update from Delia Kaye: Delia reported that following the July meeting Sandy Smith had sent some photos of the Meadow looking “tall and shaggy.” She shared some of the photos with the Committee, identified some of the tallest plants and attributed this year’s growth to the amount of rainfall. She said she would send the summer crew out to cut the sumac and other woody plants but said she would only have the summer crew for another two weeks. Sandy pointed out that even from his height the Heywood Meadow sign in the west meadow is virtually invisible behind the tall grasses and other plants.

Second, Delia reported that the Massachusetts Cultural Council has now included the Concord Museum and the Ralph Waldo Emerson House in the Concord Center Cultural District with no requirement that the sidewalk be extended toward Concord Center.

Discussion of Traffic Advisory Committee Meeting: In a conversation with the Town Engineer, Delia reported the Select Board wanted the Transportation Advisory Committee to review the Heywood Street/Walden Street intersection before it goes to the Traffic Management Group. Delia was told the TAC would simply acknowledge the correspondence from the HMSC and neighbors at their August 22nd meeting (postponed from August 8th as originally scheduled), but not take the matter up for discussion. The next following meeting of the TAC is scheduled for September 12th at 7:00pm.

Lola asked if there was any feedback on the latest version of her hand drawn map of the Meadow. Joanne replied that the feedback was all very enthusiastic. At this point (approximately 9:45am) Lola left the meeting.

Discussion of Potential New Members: Sandy reported that David Bell has agreed to serve on the Committee filling the vacancy created by the death of Murray Nicolson.

Presentation of Possible Photos for the Revised Landscape Plan: Joanne asked each member to send examples of photographs which could be used on the cover of the revised Landscape Plan.

Review of Action Items from July 20th Meeting: Delia noted the application to the Community Preservation Committee for funds to rebuild the retaining wall along the west side of Heywood Street is due on September 8th. She will follow up with Stan Lucks and Stan Nobles to complete the application.

The galvanized posts are still on Delia’s list for removal.

Peter Lee will meet with Mary Clarke when she returns to Concord to continue discussions about the form and content of possible new signage.

An additional bench for Ford Park remains on Delia's list and will be coordinated with a similar need for Assabet River Bluff.

Cris Van Dyke noted that the benches in the Meadow need some work and volunteered to speak with the same man who worked on the benches previously.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:01am.

Action items:

1. Members to send photos to Delia to be considered for the cover page of the Revised Landscape Plan.
2. Delia to have summer crew remove woody plants and reduce the height of plants in the west meadow to make the sign visible and to restore the sight lines from the west meadow to the east meadow.
3. Delia to follow up with Stan Lucks and Stan Nobles and complete the application for CPA funds to replace the retaining wall along the west side of Heywood Street.
4. Delia to monitor the considerations of the Transportation Advisory Committee with regards to the Heywood Street/Walden Street intersection.
5. Delia to have galvanized posts removed.
6. Peter Lee to meet with Mary Clarke to pursue the form and content of new educational signage.
7. Delia to arrange for a new bench to be placed in Ford Park.