

MINUTES

Heywood Meadow Stewardship Committee
In person and via Zoom
Thursday September 14, 2023, 9:00am

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:05am.

Minutes of August 10, 2023 meeting: On a motion made by Sandy Smith and seconded by Cris Van Dyke, the minutes were approved unanimously as written.

New Member: Sandy introduced and spoke briefly about David Bell, a Concord native as the newest committee member. David was warmly welcomed by the rest of the members.

Joanne informed the committee that Sandy, the heart and soul of the Heywood committee, had submitted his letter of resignation effective September 30th. As Sandy finished his term on the board of the Battery, the Battery board has designated John Thompson to succeed Sandy. The Heywood members expressed their appreciation for Sandy's dedication, years of service and hard work in particular with the updating of the landscape plan.

Delia asked if Sandy could attend the next meeting as she was unable to have the final report ready for this meeting and given the time and effort that Sandy put into it, having him there seemed appropriate. Sandy agreed.

Update from Delia: The crew cleaned up the meadow, mowing around trees leaving the Goldenrod, taking down vines from trees and the wall. The signs have been replaced and the area around them was cleaned up so that the signs are more visible. The overhanging tree limbs by the steps have been pruned and the steps have been cleaned. A CPA application for \$60,800 for wall restoration has been submitted. Sandy asked if the large oak branch that had fallen had been taken care of. Delia reported that it had been removed. Cris mentioned the Autumn Olive that is coming up in the pollinator garden on Walden Street.

Sandy related what transpired at the recent TAC (Traffic Advisory Committee) meeting. The newly formed TAC group views themselves as the Town's policy group, not the designers of crosswalks. In the next month or so TAC will send recommendations on how they can work with the TMG (Traffic Management Group). TAC will have a joint meeting with the TMG. The TAC will conduct site visits to the four projects recently sent to them by the TMG in order to help the town prioritize these projects. Sandy mentioned that there will be a TAC meeting on October 3rd. He felt it unlikely that they will take up our matter as the bulk of the meeting will be

taken up talking to the Town's consultant on the Comprehensive transportation study. David asked if the Police and Fire departments had any concerns with our proposals. Delia said they had no issues with our proposals. The possible traffic back up if a four way stop is put in was discussed.

Sandy also mentioned that the BCT (Bay Circuit Trail) currently cuts through Heywood Meadow. This was discussed in terms of the crossing of Heywood Street and the danger involved. The Concord bus system is busing children from the area due to the unsafe nature of the crossing. Sandy had to leave early and was given a round of applause.

Fall mowing: It was decided to have Land Manager Will Holden mow the Meadow mowed by the beginning of November.

Signage: Peter and Mary have met to discuss having additional signage at the meadow to explain what Heywood Meadow is, its history, a map. Peter shared photos of some of the current signs on the meadow as possible sites for the new signage. The new signs suggested would be wooden paddles with a grommet, threaded by a cable which would be attached to existing sign posts. This would allow us to put information on both sides and visitors could hold the paddle in their hands for comfortable viewing. Three locations were suggested, one in the West Meadow (BCT post), one in the East Meadow (Amble trail sign post) and one on Walden street. Lola suggested that all members bring suggestions for what information should be included on the paddle(s). David offered to have suggestions sent to him and he would type up a list for the next meeting. Multiple paddles could hang from one cable if needed. The committee was very enthusiastic about the design. Cris suggested making a general list by season of what plants might be seen, which could be on the website or a paddle all year.

Susan suggested an article be written for the *Concord Bridge*. Joanne felt many people use an app such as Picture This to identify plants in the meadow. Susan proposed and offered to write four articles for the Concord Bridge each year describing what is happening at the Meadow. Susan felt we needed a logo for our signage. Joanne mentioned a logo from years ago that might work and will email it to the committee.

Delia will send photos to the committee for the Landscape Plan.

Joanne asked for an updated phone and email list for the committee.

Cris informed the committee that Michael Sprague will refinish the benches again. Susan may write an article about Michael doing this work.

The galvanized posts are still on the list.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15

