

City Meadow Committee Meeting
Norfolk Town Hall
April 18, 2022

MINUTES

Having a quorum, the Chair called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm.

Present: Molly Ackerly (Chair), Barbara Spiegel, Peter Anstey, John Anderson (acting secretary); Matt Riiska; and members of the public. Not present was Adair Mali.

A motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting on January 24, 2022 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous vote.

Correspondence:

An updated report on the Meadow from Cynthia Rabinowitz, Northwest Conservation District, was received and distributed to committee members.

There were emails back and forth with the Chair, Matt Riiska and the Eckel family regarding the donation of 2 memorial benches to be placed on the deck by the pond. Riiska reported that the benches have been ordered and are expected early this summer.

Robertson Plaza:

Riiska reported that the new stairway to the boardwalk in the Meadow and the renovation of the plaza are expected to be completed in June 2022.

Future Maintenance:

Ackerly reported that Anderson had sent Riiska a preliminary time budget of items needed for maintenance of the Meadow and boardwalk based on the Rabinowitz report. Neither the budget nor the report specified who the various contractors are to be for some of the work required. Possible funding sources were discussed. There was a question, discussion and some suggestions from the public and the committee about maintenance within the Meadow and the bank below John Curtiss Road. It was made clear by the Chair that maintenance on the bank was now part of the City Meadow Project. Ackerly also mentioned the possibility of the Town hiring a parks supervisor to manage the Meadow maintenance and coordinate with outside contractors. Riiska said first the plants on the bank that should be protected and not be cut needed to be marked. Anderson said he would help with this identification.

Riiska will follow up:

1. on finding a contractor to cut and treat the large shrubs and trees on the bank;
2. with Christian Allyn regarding chemically retreating the invasive common reed;
3. on hiring someone to mow the Meadow this spring.

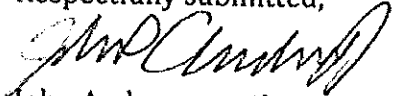
The Chair said some general planning needed to be done before volunteers would be able to cleanup and cut the bank vegetation. It was agreed that volunteers can conduct trash cleanup within the Meadow as part of the Town Earth Day efforts

on April 23. It was agreed that the solar lights previously installed on the boardwalk posts and now mostly in disrepair should be entirely removed rather than fixed or replaced. Riiska will follow up on this. Ackerly will follow up on finding someone to help pursue grants to get some of this work done.

Transition from the City Meadow Committee to Friends of City Meadow:
Ackerly said that the Committee would continue only until the renovations of Robertson Plaza and the stairway are completed, about 2 months. Interested members of the public will be invited to the final meetings of the Committee. Riiska will add interested members of the public to the email notification list of these meetings.

Upon a motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 6:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Anderson".

John Anderson, acting secretary