

City Meadow Committee Meeting
Norfolk Town Hall
June 20, 2022



MINUTES

Having a quorum, the Chair called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm.

Present: Molly Ackerly (Chair), John Anderson (acting secretary), Adair Mali; Matt Riiska (First Selectman); and members of the public: David and Margaret Cusick, Michael Selleck, and Libby Borden.

A motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting on April 18, 2022 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous vote.

Correspondence:

A letter was received from member Peter Anstey stating he was resigning from the Committee. As the Committee will be disbanded shortly, no action was taken.

A report was received from Bob Gilchrest with an update on the Robertson Plaza and stairway project. Work expected to be completed by mid July, rather than mid June as previously anticipated. Among other points in the report, the trees have been planted are guaranteed for 2 years. Also, care must be taken with snow plowing so as not to damage the surface.

Old Business:

Robertson Plaza – Decks and Stairs

Riiska reported that the old benches will be repainted before being reinstalled and there will be 2 new donated benches, all to be installed by July 1. The Yale Summer School of Art will be displaying student works around town and one piece will be set up on one of the decks at The Meadow. Electrical wiring and Wi-Fi are the next items to be installed. Ackerly raised the question of tables and chairs, and Riiska questioned whether they were provided for in the plans. It was generally agreed that it would be a good idea to have some, and Ackerly and Riiska will need to follow up. The memorial fountain will go back on the Plaza and a maintenance plan for its upkeep is being developed.

From the public a question was raised as to whether the old planters will go back on the Plaza. The Norfolk Community Foundation will be asked if or what they would like to do.

A question was raised on whether there would be a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Plaza. Ackerly will follow up, maybe in conjunction with the summer Weekend In Norfolk.

There was consensus that a general maintenance plan was needed. Riiska will follow up with Bob Gilchrest.

The Meadow maintenance

There was a question about whether the tall vegetation in the Meadow should be cut. Ackerly will follow up with Christian Allyn.

There was discussion about the need for a more detailed maintenance plan for the Meadow and for some professional guidance on this matter. Riiska said there was no money in this year's budget (July 2022 - June 2023) to hire someone and perhaps outside funding might be necessary. Ackerly expressed the need to hire a consultant or parks foreman, who would report to a new committee and make sure work get done. Suggestions were offered about possible sources of labor and other help colleges, high school agricultural programs, and others, such as last year's habitat improvement at Robbins Swamp Wildlife Management Area in Falls Village. Anderson offered to shepherd the development of the maintenance plan for the Meadow through the Conservation Commission. Riiska will follow up with the Norfolk Community Association about what role they may want to take regarding both the Plaza and the Meadow.

Riiska will update the group of interested individuals regarding this meeting's discussion.

There being no other business to discuss, and upon a motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



John Anderson, acting secretary