

City Meadow Committee
August 10, 2026 at 6:00 pm
Town Hall
Special Meeting Minutes



Attending: Molly Ackerly, Martyn Banks, Libby Borden, Mark Burke, George Cronin, Martina Gago, Paul Madore (Zoom)

Libby called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm and thanked everyone for attending

The May minutes were approved unanimously.

Libby noted that the City Meadow currently has in the Town account \$14,000 and in the Private \$37,117.28.

Libby then handed out a memo outlining various conversations that George and Libby had over the last three months (attached) and asked the committee to question and comment. (Then ensued a discussion about boundaries, invasive removal and plantings.

After handing out Jess's estimates for invasive removal, George said he would clarify with Jess exactly what parts of the Meadow were included as the committee wants to make sure that the hillside on Ben Schiff's property as well as the gully next to the Arcanum are part of the invasive removal.

Mark reported that the replaced boards showed no rotting at all and had stood up well, a relief to know that the boardwalk was basically sound.

When asked, the committee felt it had been sufficiently informed and included in decisions.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40.

George and Libby

City Meadow review

George and Libby have met with several people during the last few months and we would like to review the highlights and ask for your input.

George, Libby, Steve and Pete met at the end of June during which we discussed the possibility of extending the Plaza platforms to the Arcanum and Infinity.

After this discussion we talked to Joe and did some research and were reminded that the Arcanum owns a swarth of land that literally borders Infinity Hall so that Infinity has no footage in City Meadow.

We then talked with David Rosenfeld and explained that any thought of expanding the platforms to Infinity to create outside dining was off the table. Dave encouraged us to think big about possible City Meadow plans.

More recently we met with Pete and Bob Gilchrist to explore if there was any possibility to extend the Plaza platforms as Pete has always described his goal as "turning the town inside out" Bob again encouraged us to consider dredging the pond and he reiterated that the board walk was laid down on ground when it should have been built on pilings. This is causing rotting and sinking as well as preventing natural water flow. Bob also encouraged us to remove the dead trees that line the broad walk as they could be a hazard.

Pete also suggested that we put a sun dial in City Meadow and has reached out to Doreen as well as George and Libby.

Libby and George have also been communicating with Jess and Beth.

Jess has given us an estimate for invasive removal for the balance of the year totaling \$23,180. We are clarifying exactly what this covers as there have been developments since we received the quote. First, the Arcanum owns five feet of the gulley next to the Plaza and staircases. We have assurances from Joe that we can treat that whole area for invasives, but this was determined after we received the quote from Jess. (Our thought is to plant dogwood in that area but have not yet gotten an okay from the Arcanum folks.) Second, Beth has approached Ben Schiff about treating the bank below the parking lot which is partially owned by Ben and he has agreed. This is an additional request to Jess.

Beth and her crew have planted over 5,000 plants on the hillside next to John Curtiss Road and is watering and weeding the area. This is an ongoing project which we all should be watching carefully. However, the vegetation at the tops of the hill prevent a clear view of the plantings. We need a plan for clearing that area.

We are negotiating with Beth about the shrub and forebay plantings, neither of which have reached expectations. We are trying to get a reasonable credit from Matt's Landscaping as compensation.

George and I would appreciate your thoughts and opinions about all of the above.