

DRAFT

NOTES

City Meadow Committee Meeting

March 18, 2019

Call to Order: A quorum being present, Chair Molly Ackerly called a regular meeting of the City Meadow Committee to order at 5:33pm, at Norfolk Town Hall.

Attendance: Committee members Molly Ackerly, Barbara Spiegel, John Anderson and Samuel (Pete) Anderson were present, as were First Selectman Matt Riiska and Selectman Paul Madore. Wylie Wood and Libby Borden were present as members of the public, and invited land care consultant Michael Nadeau attended as well.

Minutes: The minutes of the January 28, 2019 meeting were approved.

Correspondence: There was no correspondence to report.

Discussion: Matt Riiska gave an update on the remedial work to be accomplished following on from SumCo's Phase I work. The seed for re-seeding has been selected from options suggested by New England Wetland Plants. A Norfolk Town crew will remove those dead trees in the Meadow that they are able to get at; the larger of the dead trees will be felled but will remain on site to decompose. Six test borings have been completed in the vicinity of the proposed stairway connecting Station Place to the Meadow boardwalk system, with satisfactory results: the subsoil will support the dead and live loads associated with the stairway.

As to Phase II work, landscape architect Bob Gilchrest is to be directed to proceed with the design both of a wooden deck by the pond and "swellings" in the boardwalk to provide seating. There was general discussion around the germ of an idea that came up during the downtown charrette last summer as a way to bring the Meadow more actively into the life of the town center, and vice versa. By eliminating the stone wall along the north side of Robertson Plaza, the plaza could be physically expanded even a short distance over the slope above the meadow, where it would become a springboard for the staircase system. Further discussion will continue.

Michael Nadeau of *Wholistic Land Care Consulting LLC*, on behalf of himself and Kathleen Connolly of *Speaking of Landscapes* (who was unable to attend), then offered observations on the current state of the Meadow plantings, suggesting that a Management Plan should be developed that would help the Town minimize maintenance and achieve long-term stability at a reasonable cost. Goals should include remediation of inadequate aspects of the project, leading to enhanced function and improved aesthetics. Mr. Nadeau was asked to submit a formal proposal including the scope of work and associated fees, by which his team would prepare and carry out such a Management Plan - the field work to be phased out over approximately five years - in time to be reviewed before the Committee's next meeting.


Next Meeting: The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Committee is on April 15, 2019, at Norfolk Town Hall at 5:30pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30pm.



Samuel A. (Pete) Anderson, Acting Secretary
cmc031819

Approved at meeting on April 15, 2019.



Mary M. Ackerly