



Friends of the Meadow
December 10 at 6:00 pm
Town Hall and Zoom
Minutes of Special Meeting

Attending:, Molly Ackerly, Lisa Atkin, Mark Burke, Libby Borden, George Cronin, Doreen Kelly, Paul Madore
Absent:, Martyn Banks,

Libby called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

The minutes of September and November meetings were unanimously approved.

Libby welcome Mark Burke as a new commission member. She mentioned that Matt was going to inquire of Martyn Banks if he wanted to continue to serve.

George described in detail the Meadow progress. The content of Beth's e-mail to George and Libby is presented below.

George, Doreen, and Libby met before the meeting as a sub-group representing Friends of the Meadow, The Community Association and The Norfolk Hub to discuss the Plaza. The group suggests that the fountain to turned into a planter and that both Beth Romaker and Bob Gilchrist be consulted as to what to do about the plantings around the trees.

The presence of Friends of the Meadow on the Town Website was discussed. George and Libby had met with Sue Frisch earlier and talked about possibilities on the website. Everyone agreed a presence was important. Molly will look in her files for some old photographs and information.

The Meadow budget was discussed. George and Libby estimate that we need to raise between \$150K-\$200K over the next two years. We will look for a marketing person to help develop a fundraising campaign to begin in May.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Libby and George

Beth Romaker: We planted just under 400 woody plants of 21 different species. They are mostly shrubs, ranging from one gallon size to 10 gallon, with the exception of one large specimen tree (Black tupelo). A few sycamore trees were added to the edge of the woodland. Our focus was on native shrubs that will produce berries and provide cover for wildlife, add stability to the northwestern slope (where many invasives were removed), and put on beautiful floral displays in the spring. The majority of the shrubs were grown in central MA from local ecotype seed. Of those, we added in some cultivars of the same straight species - for example, to the 60 ecotypic button bush shrubs, we added

12 'Sugar Shack' cultivars close to the boardwalk that have the added traits of smaller mature size, higher floral abundance, and scent. Similarly, we added 10 winterberry 'Winter Red' amongst the ecotypic ones to ensure that some of the shrubs will have dense, showy berry displays. These new plants are being cared for throughout this winter and next by applying an organic deer repellent monthly.