

Meadows Committee Meeting Minutes

January 31, 2024 (Initial Meeting)

In Attendance: Bruce Daggy, Anne Vincent, Georgette Cole, Audrey Maskery, Joan Mahaffey, David Stopak

Agenda was approved (see below).

Public comment: Joan noted that she guided Tomas Spector in clipping some of the oriental bittersweet in the lower meadow as a MLK Day service activity.

The Committee voted to approve the following language for the landing page to describe the nature and purpose of the committee:

In 2024, Grovers formed an *ad hoc* Meadows Committee to ensure and enhance the health of both the Upper and Lower Meadows. To this end, Committee members intend to work with the Montgomery County Parks' Meadow Management and Restoration Program to:

- revisit and/or make more specific and prescriptive the objectives stated in the OUP.
- ensure the appropriate implementation of the objectives, as revised.

Bruce agreed to reach out to Parks to clarify any sensitivities regarding our involvement with the lower meadow. David noted that it makes sense, due to the watershed and ecological considerations, to encourage Parks to think in terms of the whole region, including both meadows and our woods. Wendy Harris mapped the natural springs in the Parks area, and Heather Hostling identified protected archeological sites. There has already been encroachment with adverse impacts, e.g., to the box turtle population. Given the Operation & Use Plan was never finalized, and that its main focus was the upper meadow, the Committee will seek to obtain an overall agreement with Parks covering both meadows.

Committee members are encouraged to identify additional documents or other resources to add to those collected from Dave Cosson, which will become accessible via the landing page. Bruce will circulate to the Committee one document from legal counsel who advised the town on the upper meadow.

We agreed to walk the meadows on Feb. 10 at 3 pm, weather permitting, meeting at the entrance on Ridge near Brown.

No date set for a visit to Rachel Carson as yet.

Future committee meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of the month, starting in March.

Agenda:

1) Approve Agenda

2) Brief public comments

3) Clarify committee's nature (ad hoc?), geographical scope (Conservation Meadow only or both?), and objectives. Here, for discussion, is what is stated in the draft landing page:

In 2024, Grovers formed an ad hoc Meadows Committee to ensure and enhance the health of both the Upper and Lower Meadows. To this end, Committee members intend to work with the Montgomery County Parks' Meadow Management and Restoration Program to:

- revisit and/or make more specific and prescriptive the objectives stated in the OUP.
- ensure the appropriate implementation of the objectives, as revised.

4) Call for other background documents or resources (human or otherwise) beyond Dave Cosson's files.

5) Confirm date/time for walking our meadows to assess the current state of affairs

6) Confirm date/time for visit to the Rachel Carson Nature Preserve to observe the restoration in progress

7) Confirm upcoming meeting schedule (tentatively set for monthly meetings on third Wednesdays at 7:30 pm)

8) Adjourn