



Rockport Millbrook Meadow Committee

P.O. Box 51, Rockport, MA 01966

www.millbrookmeadow.org

Charmaine Blanchard
Marcia Lombardo, Treasurer
Aileen Morrissey
Frederick H. Tarr III

Samuel W. Coulbourn, Chair
Shannon Mason, Vice Chair
Barbara Sparks
Stephanie Woolf

Minutes of Meeting Wednesday, January 21st, 2015 Trustees' Room, Rockport Public Library

7:00 p.m. Chairman **Sam Coulbourn** called the meeting to order. All members present: **Marcia Lombardo, Aileen Morrissey, Barbara Sparks, Charmaine Blanchard, Shannon Mason, Ted Tarr** and **Stephanie Woolf**. Also present were **Susan J. Gray**, Advisor to MMC and long-time leader in Rockport Music, **Gunilla Caulfield**, Trustee of the Lura Hall Phillips Trust; **Tony Beadle**, Executive Director of Rockport Music, **Sara Young** and **Amy Rich**, both with Rockport Music, **Kelley** and **Mike Anderson** and **Marty Ross**, all abutters to the Mill Pond.

1. Introduction. Chairman Coulbourn introduced visitors.

2. Request of Rockport Music for Opening Night Gala June 5, 2015. Sam invited Tony Beadle to explain the request of Rockport Music.

Tony re-stated the request by Rockport Music to install a tent (80' x 40') in the Meadow for a dinner for about 230 guests. He said that access to the Meadow via the pathway would remain open for the public.

He noted that this event, a fund raiser for Rockport Music's programs, will celebrate the 34th anniversary of the Chamber Music Festival and the Fifth anniversary of the Shalin Liu Performance Center (SLPC). He announced that Rockport Music has been fortunate to engage Yo-yo Ma, world-famous cellist, as the star for the night.

The program for the evening, Tony outlined, will begin with a cocktail reception at 6 p.m. on the third floor of the SLPC, followed by a concert in the music hall at 6:30. Then guests would walk to the Millbrook Meadow for dinner at about 8 p.m. Those who were not able to walk would be transported by trolley.

A toilet trailer, accommodating four toilets and running water, etc. would be located in the Peg Leg parking lot, along with the generator to provide power for the lighting and electrical service in the tent.

The tent would be erected on Thursday, June 4th and caterers would start setting up for dinner at about 3 p.m. on Friday. They would clear, clean up and remove all trash, etc. before 11 p.m.

Chairs, tables and tents would be removed on Saturday morning.

They would have a heater to use in case of cool weather, and to dry out the interior before the dinner if there has been rain.

There would be soft up-lighting under trees to dramatize the Meadow setting for guests, Tony said.

There would be background music during dinner, provided by a string quartet, but no amplified music.

Tony said that if there was damage to the grass from the event Rockport Music would pay for remedial grass seeding, etc.

Tony stated that the selectmen had asked about access to the park during the event, and he reassured all that the path through the Meadow will be open and the public would be able to enter the park.

Charmaine asked questions related to times of events and clearance of the area, trash disposal, and noise. She stated that this was the largest event to be held in the Meadow in her recollection. Tony asked how many people were present for the annual Acoustic Festival in the Meadow, and Sam estimated about 180. [Note: During Lura Phillips' day, there were annual fairs and events with well over 300 people in attendance. The annual Scandinavian Midsommer Celebration drew 200-300.]

Marcia stated that she was an abutter and asked questions about noise and timing of the end of the evening.

Ted asked about Rockport Music providing the Meadow with a donation. Tony said that he would ask his Board of Directors. Sam stated that, because this was a public park, we could not charge a fee for such an event as this, but donations to the Meadow were always welcome.

Ted said that there was a real need for a written procedure for such requests. Sam held up a draft of such a procedure, which he said MMC would work on, and then submit to the Board of Selectmen for their approval. "Of course that would not be available for this event," he added.

Mike Anderson stated that he was concerned that the Town move forward on restoring the Pond and Meadow, and felt that this event would be good for publicizing that.

Susan stated that she was a Friend of the Meadow and of Rockport Music, and this was a "win-win" combination for both organizations.

Kelley Anderson said that she thought that it was important for abutters to be notified of such an event, e.g. if one were to be planning a birthday party for her child at about this time.

Charmaine suggested a letter informing the abutters of this event. Tony agreed to do it. Barbara suggested that MMC should also inform them. Ted suggested that they jointly inform them.

Members informally agreed to this. Sam said he would work with Rockport Music to make this happen.

Sam asked if there were more questions or comments. Since there were none, he called for a motion. Ted moved to approve the use of the Meadow by Rockport Music for this event.

Shannon seconded. The Committee voted unanimously to approve.

3. Next Regular Meeting will be Wednesday, February 11, 2015.

4. Adjourn 7:43 p.m.

Approved:

Samuel W. Coulbourn

Copy to: Town Administrator; Director of Public Works; Conservancy Board and Advisors ; Conservation Agent ; DPW Commissioners.