



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, March 11th, 2015 Trustees' Room, Rockport Public Library

7:00 p.m. Chairman **Sam Coulbourn** called the meeting to order. Members present: **Barbara Sparks, Shannon Mason, Aileen Morrissey, Marcia Lombardo, Stephanie Woolf** and **Ted Tarr**. **Charmaine Blanchard** arrived at 7:12. Also present were **Gunilla Caulfield**, Trustee of the Lura Hall Phillips Trust; **Eric Hutchins**, Advisor to the RMMC; **Colleen Coogan** of National Marine Fisheries Service, and Rockport High School Seniors **Soni Razdan** and **Quinton Hurst**.

1. Public input. Eric suggested that the Committee should “stay on top of” contractor money.

2. Committee Business.

Treasurer's Report. Marcia announced that the MMC treasury amounted to \$2802.12. Shannon presented a claim for reimbursement from Sam for \$383.00 for postage and duplication services for the recent mail campaign. Members voted to pay; Marcia will submit to the Town Treasurer for payment.

Minutes of February 11. Members approved minutes without changes.

3. World Fish Migration Day and Eel business [Eric and interns] Sam asked concurrence of members to move this event forward so that school students could get home earlier. Members concurred. Eric introduced Quinton and Soni, RHS Seniors, who will be working on the upcoming eel migration. Quinton and Soni distributed handouts and made a presentation, explaining that they will be monitoring transit of elvers (6.5 inches long or less) and adult eels as they enter the Mill Brook and travel up stream, perhaps into the trap set for them, then measure and remove them for them to continue their journeys. Eels have been known to go all over the Mill Brook watershed, up to Loop Pond and in wetlands in the Town Forest. Soni reported that their project had obtained a \$500 grant from Toad Hall Book Store. The interns plan to coordinate their WFMD activities with the Yellow Duck race held by the Council on Aging, and also with Cub Scout activities that day. Eric stated that permitting for dredging would take into account the migration of the eels, and for that reason we would probably not be allowed to begin dredging until June 30th, 2016.

Shannon said that she would put WFMD in the Meadow on the Town Calendar.

4. Update status of Millbrook Meadow Restoration.

Status of Phase 3 Contract with MMI. Barbara reported that the contractor has visited the Pond and begun measurements and tests. There are little flags on the ice of the Pond, and next week they will conduct boring tests of areas that will be disturbed during construction. They will also be conducting surveys to ascertain correct property lines.

Barbara reported that the Restoration team had met with the DPW Commissioners to update them on the project on March 4, 2015, and with the Community Preservation Committee on March 10, 2015. At the CPC meeting member Mel Michaels gave the team a comprehensive set of questions, and the team is busy working on providing answers. There was a discussion on financing of the project. Frank Hassler, advisor for the team, provided information about a November 15, 2014 meeting with representatives from Finance Committee, Capitol Improvement Planning Committee (CIPC), CPC and DPW. Ruth George, Chair of CPC, said at the March 10 meeting: "I don't see how CPC can do it all." Frank reminded her that the consensus at the November 2014 meeting, at which she was present, was that funding for this project would most likely fit with CPA funding. Ms. George said she would consult with a State official to see if the items on MMC's list of tasks can legally be funded using CPA money. If there are items CPA cannot legally fund, the Town will need to fill in the gaps. Suggestion is that we hope CPC will finance this project in the same manner as they did for the Community House, with a 20 year (?) bond. Ms. George had apprehensions about committing to two concurrent bonds. Shannon noted that the Meadow provides benefits for a much greater portion of Rockport than the Community House.

MMC will next meet with CPC on May 12th, and also on June 9th, if necessary.

Educating the Public. Barbara suggested that the public needs to be educated about what a "Managed Landscape" looks like in order to understand what is planned for the Meadow. More familiar are the wild or natural landscapes such as the Headlands or Halibut Point State Park.

5. Fundraising Sub-Committee. Our donation total still stands at \$26,200 at ECCF. Shannon reported that we will have a letter-signing party March 12th to obtain donations to meet the Match Challenge of an anonymous donor who has offered a challenge to match, dollar for dollar, all donations given from March 1st to September 14th up to \$25,000, meaning that with generous donations we could gain \$50,000. The 380 letters we plan to send out this week are for people who have not donated before. We will approach previous donors later this spring or summer.

6. Earth Day Cleanup. We will have our Spring Cleanup in the Meadow Saturday, April 25th. Shannon is in charge of arrangements. We plan to work from 9 to 11 a.m.

7. Kiosk. Gunilla reported on research she has done about buying and installing an information kiosk for the Meadow. No decision was made.

8. Meadow and Pond Use Request Policy and Procedure. Charmaine has prepared a form with supporting rules. This was discussed. She said she had more items to check and the form was not yet ready for a vote.

9. Community Outreach. Barbara and Aileen reported on plans to meet with other town organizations.

Conservation Commission, Wednesday, April 1st at 7 p.m. at Town Hall Annex

Rockport Garden Club Monday, April 6th at 1 p.m. at Community House

Board of Selectmen Tuesday, April 14th.

Special Public Meeting Wednesday, April 15th at Brenner Friends' Room.

Economic Development Committee TBD.
Historic District Commission TBD.
Rotary TBD.
Finance Committee TBD.
Motif No. 1 Day Saturday, May 16th all day.

10. Publicity. Shannon made the point that we really need a PR person. The name of Donna Herlihy was brought up.

11. New Business. None.

12. Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 8, 2015 at Trustees' Room, Rockport Public Library.

13. Adjourn 8:23 p.m.

Approved:

Samuel W. Coulbourn

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