



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, May 13th, 2015 Trustees' Room, Rockport Public Library

7:00 p.m. Chairman **Sam Coulbourn** called the meeting to order. Members present: **Barbara Sparks, Shannon Mason, Marcia Lombardo, Stephanie Woolf, Aileen Morrissey** and **Ted Tarr**. Also present were **Gunilla Caulfield**, Trustee of the Lura Hall Phillips Trust; **Eric Hutchins** and **Laura Hollowell**, Advisors to the RMMC. **Charmaine Blanchard** was absent.

1. Public input. None.

2. Committee Business.

a. Treasurer's Report. Marcia reported that funds available to MMC are now \$ 2033.12. Our funds in ECCF have netted \$610.27, and donations as of March 31, 2015 totaled \$28,130.27.

b. Minutes of April 8, 2015. Members approved minutes.

3. Update status of Millbrook Meadow Restoration.

a. Status of Phase 3 Work by MMI. Barbara reported that she had observed some of the digging of test pits in locations expected to be disturbed in the Meadow, and there was good news. Soil testers found nothing to indicate industrial debris and potential contamination. They even found bits of gravel, sand, and other indicators of a former stream bed in the Dogwood thicket test pit. This is a place that will be in the new, sinuous water course. These samples will be submitted to a soils lab for further testing. Matt Sanford, MMI soil scientist, and Jason Williams of MMI were present. DPW personal provided equipment and manpower. Sam noted that surveyors were at work in the Meadow today (May 13th.)
Laura added that the Meadow needs raking and re-seeding.

b. Report on Community Preservation Committee (CPC) meeting May 12th. Sam thanked all the Committee, Conservancy members and Advisors who had attended the meeting. Barbara said that MMI representatives Jason Williams and Matt Sanford presented a concise power-point walk-through of proposed construction, pointing out decisions that have to be made, and elements that are linked and need to be constructed at the same time. She reported that Chairwoman Ruth George had moved up the deadline for submission of our final proposal and cost numbers from June 9th to June 2nd. The next CPC meeting will take place June 9, at which

time CPC will decide which projects to propose to Town Meeting (September 14) to fund, and for what amount of money.

It now appears that CPC is not inclined to discuss the possibility of bonding the cost of the Meadow and Pond project at this time. They expect us to submit a request that is considerably less than the \$1,291,000.00 in our application, as a “First Phase.”

In their briefing for CPC, MMI also gave a detailed presentation on the two options for dredging the Mill Pond: hydraulic and mechanical.



Digging test pit in dogwood thicket

c. Next Steps for MMC toward CPC. Eric made a detailed comment on the whole CPC process, stating that he keeps informed on their work since his wife is on the committee; he was one of the members when CPC was first formed. Based on his rich experience with waterways, dredging and the permitting process in his job as a Marine Biologist, as well as his background with the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission, he recommended that we pick the construction of the wingwall as the first, the most easily permitted, and the most vital part of this project. His sense of the CPC was that they don't want to apportion money to this project unless there are definitive shovel-ready plans and costs. We should ask for the money to do the first stages, plans and costs for which should be available by June 2. Those would be the wingwall and 80 to 90 feet of the stream. He recommended that we not attack the Frog Pond until after we have dredged the Mill Pond, because the turbidity from any dredging in the Mill Pond would heavily impact the Frog Pond. Barbara will ask MMI to comment.

Discussion then took place. The MMC agreed that the Meadow work needs to come first, then Mill Pond dredging. Barbara agreed with this approach, and said she would like to ask for money to dredge the Frog Pond in this first phase, even if we have to delay doing it until later. The DPW has in hand a permit to dredge Frog Pond.

The MMC directed Barbara to communicate with MMI the following approach for Phase 1: (1) Construction of wingwall and stream relocation 80 to 90 ft. upstream; 2) Remainder of stream relocation up to Frog Pond; and (3) Frog Pond.

d. Meadow invasives control. Laura reported that she and the invasives team had cleaned up the whole King Street side of the Mill Pond and will seed it to suppress re-growth of invasives.

e. Report on Spring Cleanup April 25th. Sam reported that we had a good cleanup with 12 people.

f. Public Meeting Wednesday, April 15. Barbara suggested we have moved forward since the meeting, and did not need to discuss this at this meeting; members agreed.

4. Meadow and Pond Use Request Policy and Procedure. Since Charmaine could not be here, this was deferred until the June meeting.

5. Fundraising Sub-Committee, Publicity and Community Outreach.

a. Status of FSC fundraising and grant application efforts. Shannon reported on donations to date and said that the Fund Raising Subcommittee planned to get together to write appeal letters to previous (2014) donors in early June. She and Barbara noted that Betsy Giannoccaro had been working on a PARC grant request and had coordinated with Steven Winslow, working with the City of Gloucester, and proposed that we aim for applying for a \$50,000 grant instead of trying to meet all the requirements for the larger reimbursement grant.

c. What to do with ECCF funds? Laura asked what, specifically, was the money being collected at ECCF to be used for. Members noted that even though the fund, thanks to a \$25,000 matching grant by an anonymous donor now approaches \$50,000, that amount could be absorbed up in one small part of the Restoration. Sam suggested that he understood that it was primarily intended as a nest egg to build an Endowment for future maintenance. Barbara agreed, but observed that we are asking for this money “for the Restoration” and it should indeed be available for urgent needs of the restoration, as well as eventually, an endowment for maintenance. As part of our CPC Application we need to show that we have a plan for future maintenance. Members agreed.

d. Proposed fund-raising idea for Fourth of July. Sam offered sample strawberry shortcakes to members at start of the meeting, and asked them to consider running a booth in the Meadow on the afternoon of July 4th, selling these desserts. Members said many had traditional family gatherings on that day, and there simply was no group available to do this.

6. Community Outreach. Barbara thanked Laura for keeping up the Timeline for Town Committee visits and Meadow events. To date, we have provided briefings for the Rockport Garden Club (4/6/15), the Board of Selectmen (4/14/15) a Public meeting by MMC (4/15/15) and the Beautification Committee (5/11/15). Here are future events:

a. Motif No. 1 Day Saturday, May 16th all day. Shannon reported that we will install a tent and have displays and a table. They plan to sell t-shirts, and other items, and run a 50-50 raffle. The events in Harvey Park have been scaled down and so there will be no fee. Our booth rent will be refunded or applied toward the rent for Harvest Fest in October.

b. Presentation on Cape Ann Closed-circuit TV. Sam and Shannon, 5:30 -6:30, to be aired later.

c. Planning Board, Thursday, May 21. Barbara and Sam, 7:30 p.m.

d. Historic District Commission Thursday, June 25. TBD.

e. Chamber of Commerce. June TBD.

f. Rotary Thursday, June 25th. Barbara and Sam will speak, 12 noon.

g. Finance Committee TBD.

h. Open Space Committee—Ted will inquire.

i. Economic Development Committee TBD (Likely in August.)

j. Next Public Meeting, in summer.

k. World Fish Migration Day, Saturday, May 30th. Eric is in charge of this. It will be a low-key show-and-tell for children, using the eel trap and eels that may be available to show attendees. MMC will have a table nearby with brochures and pictures for informing visitors about our Restoration. Aileen volunteered to man the table, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. [??]

The Council on Aging will hold the annual **Rubber Duck Race** in Mill Brook at 11 a.m.

7. Rockport Music Gala Dinner in the Meadow June 5th Shannon reported that she had been coordinating this with Amy Rich. The tent will be located near the passageway to the Peg Leg parking lot, in the part of the Meadow near the dam. Porta-potties will be located in the parking lot as well as the caterer’s truck and their generator.

8. Information Kiosk for Meadow— Sam thanked Aileen and her husband Scott Morrissey for volunteering to build an information board for the Meadow. This would be a wooden structure with a locked Plexiglas enclosure for placement of maps and other printed material to inform and educate the public about the Meadow. Aileen said her husband would do all the work. She produced photos of various bulletin boards. She also said that Alan Battistelli would pay for the materials. Members expressed pleasure that this will be an “all-Rockport” product. Scott will produce a design before he builds it. The board will be placed either where the existing sign post is (with history of the Meadow), or nearby. It must be located where it will not interfere with trucks entering the Meadow for maintenance, but very obvious to visitors entering from Beach Street.

9. Graffiti Clean Up Proposal & Scout Trail. Mary Devaney, the chairwoman of the Town’s anti-graffiti task force has asked MMC to provide \$75.00 to remove the “Evil Eye” graffito on the wall of the Union Cemetery. Members suggested that the graffiti are not on Millbrook Meadow property. Sam pointed out that Gerri Falco, Conservation Agent, had authorized us or anyone to return this 12’ x 10’ area to its prior condition, with overgrown shrubs and fallen limbs, so that it is no longer an attractive place for teenagers to hang out. Eric reported that the graffito was no longer there. Sam will contact Mary.

10. New Business. None

11. Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 3, 2015 at Trustees’ Room, Rockport Public Library.

18. Adjourn 9:15 p.m.

Approved:

Samuel W. Coulbourn

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