



Rockport Millbrook Meadow Committee

Town Hall, Rockport, MA 01966

Charmaine Blanchard
Samuel W. Coulbourn, Chair
Marcia Lombardo
Shannon Mason, Vice Chair
Beverly Robbins

Nathan Sotis
Barbara Sparks
John Sparks
Frederick H. Tarr III

Minutes of Meeting, Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Trustees' Room, Rockport Public Library

7:04 p.m. Chairman Sam Coulbourn called the meeting to order. Members present were Marcia Lombardo, Barbara and John Sparks. Charmaine Blanchard arrived at 7:30 p.m. Shannon Mason, Beverly Robbins, Ted Tarr and Nate Sotis were absent. Eric Hutchins was present as a visitor.

1. Update Millbrook Meadow Restoration planning progress. Sam reported on the recent (May 14) meeting with the Community Preservation Committee, and Eric added details.

Barbara questioned how spending of the \$120,000 now authorized would be handled. Eric suggested that a deliverable product base from the contractor would be effective. He also advised that MMC and DPW maintain an informal relationship. Members concurred that this would be preferable. Barbara added, "We need to push." regarding firm guidelines for tracking spending.

2. Fundraising and 501.c.3. John suggested that we should add searching for grants to the responsibility of the contractor who is hired. He added that we should look for a new member in MMC who is good at grant writing. Eric suggested that this might not be wise or sensible in terms of the best use of contractors. "They may not be good at finding grants, but they can write grants that we identify for them."

Members discussed devoting a good portion of our June meeting to brainstorming fund raising ideas.

As an idea for fund raising, Eric suggested holding a 50-50 raffle to guess the correct count of eels traversing the eel ladder in a period of time. He said that this is very popular in **(Eric—please fill in location)** and brings in a respectable amount of money. **Monuments.** The subject arose and members agreed that we did not want the Meadow and Pond to become filled with engraved nameplates. Sam related the words he had heard from Gunilla Caulfield, recalling that Lura Philips was very specific in disliking the idea of providing brass or granite nameplates in the Meadow. She was expert at extracting money from donors to honor families, etc., but insisted on placing the

memorial information in Town Hall. Barbara said that this is a matter that will require more discussion.

Still on the subject of providing mementos as a part of our fund raising, Eric suggested that we obtain slices of wood from trees we remove and have them made into plaques for honoring people, etc.

Charmaine said that she is still in the process of researching 501.c.3.

John suggested that the Friends of Millbrook Meadow and Mill Pond could be the nucleus for a fundraising organization. Eric suggested that we look at the Friends of Thacher Island organization as a template for effective fund raising.

3. Condition of Meadow. Charmaine brought up several items that she suggested should be brought to the attention of the Director of Public Works regarding the Meadow. Barbara suggested that we compile those by a week from this meeting and then forward them to the Director.

Charmaine provided her list as follows:

“As discussed at the May 22nd Meeting, I am including a list below of what I believe needs to be addressed in the Meadow by the DPW:

1. Granite Bridge: Corner stone is completely loose and needs to be re-cemented.
2. Birch trees near Beverly's home are dead and laying on utility lines.
3. Park benches throughout the Meadow and near the Mill Pond are in need of repair and painting.
4. Stone path through the Meadow from Beach Street now has a great deal of grass growing in it.
5. White picket gate on Beach Street entrance is gone and replaced by a chain. Please put a new white picket gate put back in its place.
6. Trash barrels are missing and/or need to be replaced due to their poor condition.
7. Debris should be removed from Mill Brook channel that flows out to Front Beach.
8. Swings on swing set need to be replaced, including one toddler swing.
9. Stone and dirt needs to be replaced under swing set, and then a layer of wood chips provided in the area.
10. Stone wall on Beach Street where Mill Brook runs under Beach Street is missing stones and needs repointing.

[Another item Charmaine listed is set aside for discussion at our next meeting:

“Whale or Turtle should be put back in playground area.” Some have suggested that the spring toys were dangerous and unsuitable for small children, particularly since older children frequently destroy them.]

Members, in the course of reading these minutes, please inform the Chairman if you have additional items, or if you disagree with those that are listed above.

5. Discussion of Dam “Opening Ceremony”. Saturday, May 25th: Sam reported progress to date. Shannon Mason could not be present tonight, but everything seems to be on track. Charmaine is providing a “Tweety Bird” costume for the ceremony and reported that Jace Mason, son of Shannon, will wear it. Sam brought up the idea of providing refreshments for the officials and musicians. He will procure coffee, water, etc.

6. Logo for MMC. Darren Mason has prepared several versions of a possible logo for the MMC to use on hats, tee shirts, etc. Members differed widely on their preferences. Since several members were not present, we agreed to continue the discussion at our next meeting.

7. Schedule: Eric added an event. On **Monday, June 3rd and Tuesday, June 4th** Rockport Eighth Graders will come down to the Meadow with Teacher Carolyn McWilliams, as part of their study of _____ ?? _____..

Wednesday, July 10th and 24th: Story Hour. Library hosts ~70 children from North Shore at Reading Hour in the Meadow.

8. Eel Ladder. Eric reported that he checks on the eel ladder frequently, and said that it should be cleaned out annually. He noted that it should be operational during the eel spawning period, March 15th through July 1st.

9. Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 19th at the Community Room at Rockport Police Headquarters.

10. Adjourn. 8:37 p.m. Barbara moved to adjourn, Marcia seconded. All voted to adjourn.

Approved:

Samuel W. Coulbourn

**Copy to: Town Administrator
Director of Public Works**