



# Rockport Millbrook Meadow Committee

P.O. Box 51, Rockport, MA 01966

[www.millbrookmeadow.org](http://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, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 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, Charmaine Blanchard** and **Ted Tarr**. Also present were **Gunilla Caulfield, Laura Hallowell, Frank Hassler** and **Eric Hutchins**, Advisors to the RMMC.

**1. Public input.** None.

**2. Update on the Status of Millbrook Meadow Restoration.** Barbara reported that the Project Advisors met on September 3<sup>rd</sup> and discussed the Expanded Environmental Notification Form (EENF) prepared by Milone & MacBroom (MMI). Once this document has been reviewed by DPW and the DPW Commissioners, and their and our inputs provided to MMI for possible modifications, it will be submitted to MEPA. This will begin the permitting process. Eric summarized the lengthy comments he had provided on Sept. 3 by stating that he thought that the *Expanded* Notification prepared by MMI might not be wise, as he thought this project might best be handled with the regular Environmental Notification, and use of the expanded version might invite more scrutiny by more agencies than was warranted.

**Eric further stressed the absolute importance of obtaining a review and comments by DPW and the Commissioners, even if this caused us a delay in submission. Members agreed that, since DPW, not MMC, is the agency submitting this notification, it is vital that the Commissioners support it.** If they have differences with any part of it, then these differences need to be worked out now. Failure for us all to agree on this project as we begin permitting could mean costly changes and delays further along.

**Barbara noted that the DPW Commissioners will next meet on Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> and we hope that at that time they will provide their comments and recommendations on the EENF filing.**

Frank suggested that we need to be quite specific as to what needs to happen at this stage. Aileen asked why we were going to MEPA before appearing before local boards first. Eric explained that the process calls for this notification to be made to MEPA at the 50% design stage, whereas local boards will require review later in the design process. Sam noted that

Barbara has been in charge of a very comprehensive program of informing and briefing local boards and committees informally.

Laura asked why the red maple near the dam needs to be cut down, when it appears to be mature and flourishing, and replacement trees will take years to gain the same value in the Meadow. Charmaine said that she had fielded questions from anxious residents fearing that too many trees would be cut down, turning the Meadow into an “open field.”

Barbara said we will need to have a discussion with a horticulturalist about tree removal and replacement.

Laura reported that she had been with Gerri Falco, the Conservation Agent, in the Meadow the day before, and she had commented on plans to remove the dogwood patch which will be in the path of the re-constructed Mill Brook. Laura suggested that the wording on the EENF should be changed to reflect the advice of environmentalists about protecting bordering wetland vegetation.

Laura and Charmaine next brought up the subject of removal of cattails in the Pond. Members had differing ideas of just how far back toward the head (south end) of the Pond dredging would occur; the existing plans did not seem to clarify this. Barbara said that Drawing RE2 showed this. Sam said his understanding was that most of the cattails would be protected as established wetland, and dredging would remove only a small swath, but increased depth of water would prevent the cattails from advancing northward toward the dam. The idea of the boardwalk was to allow visitors to view the pristine wetland at the south end of the Pond, including wildlife, and it was expected that a fringe of cattails on the north side of the boardwalk across the Pond would conceal the presence of the boardwalk. Laura and Charmaine wondered if the dredged area might increase with local permitting and the fact that so many townspeople seem to really want an expanded pond area, even though the current plan seems the best option. Eric opined that he didn't think that such destruction of the wetland as now established would be permitted.

Eric also asked why the boardwalk would be eight feet wide; he thought that was too wide, out of scale and would be too expensive.

Laura suggested that we should have a discussion with DPW and the Commissioners about future maintenance of the Meadow and Pond. Members agreed, but suggested that this should come after getting the EENF taken care of.

**3. Information Kiosk for Meadow**—Aileen reported that she will urge her husband to start construction of the information board. She noted that the Conservation Commission was so impressed with the idea of this bulletin board that they are planning two of them for other locations. However, they will be built elsewhere. Aileen asked that painting of the board be done by someone else; Laura volunteered to do it.

#### **4. Committee Business**

**Treasurer's Report.** Marcia stated that end-of year accounting in Town Hall was still quite confused, owing to the sudden departure of the Town Accountant, and the return of Roberta Josephson to the post.

Marcia reported that as of July 31, 2015 we had \$964.60 in our expense fund; \$168,537.91 in the Lura Hall Phillips Fund; and \$0.00 In the CPC fund.

**Approval of Submitted Bills.** Marcia moved to reimburse for Essex Country Registry fee of \$75.00 for filing the Invasives filing. Charmaine seconded; all voted to approve.

Shannon asked for approval to expend \$40 for a table at Harvest Fest on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Marcia seconded; all voted to approve.

**Approve Minutes of August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015.** Marcia offered a minor change. Barbara moved to approve, Shannon seconded; all voted to approve.

## 5. Meadow and Pond Use Request Policy and Procedure.

Sam reported that the form proposed for applying for an event in the Meadow had been re-worked to reflect the decisions of our August meeting, in which we stipulated that gatherings not exceed 100 persons, nor chairs for such events not exceed 20, and tents not exceed 20 ft. x 20 ft.

Members were satisfied with the front page of the application form with minor exceptions. Discussion turned to fees—how to determine how much to charge for each event? How to pay? How to deal with a check that bounced?

Sam asked Charmaine to provide the finishing, legal language to the form and we will discuss it at our October meeting.

**Request for Jayclyn Meyer Wedding, May 21<sup>st</sup> 2016.** Shannon reported that the couple was satisfied with the limitations imposed (i.e. Number of people, chairs allowed) and continues to desire to have their wedding ceremony in the Meadow. They will hold their reception elsewhere. Barbara recommended approval, Ted seconded, all voted to recommend approval.

**Request for 19<sup>th</sup> annual Blessing of the Animals.** Rev. Karin Wade has requested to hold the annual ceremony for pets in cages or on leash, on Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015, from 2 to 4 p.m. Ted moved to approve, Aileen seconded. All voted to recommend approval.



**6. Fundraising Sub-Committee, Publicity and Community Outreach.** Shannon reports that Contributions to date in the Conservancy Fund at ECCF amount to \$82,240.00. This includes \$25,000 from an anonymous donor, which was critically instrumental as a challenge to raise \$25,000.

**Pam Fox Painting Raffle.** Sam thanked Shannon and Darren Mason for setting up a table at the Saturday Farmers' Market in Harvey Park September 5 to sell raffle tickets. Shannon reports we sold 11 tickets. She says we have now sold 71 tickets. Sam said that we need to sell at least 200 tickets to meet the expected value of Pam's painting. We have printed 300 tickets.

Shannon asked for volunteers to set up at the future farmers' markets on Sept. 12, 19 and 26, and Oct. 3, 10 and Harvest Fest, Oct. 17. Aileen and Sam will sell Sept. 12 and Laura and Ted will sell Sept. 19.

**Discussion of community presentations.** Barbara reported that we have one more presentation, this one for the Economic Development Committee, on Tuesday, September 15 at 7:15 p.m.

## 7. New Business.

**Eel Count.** Eric reported that the eel count for this year's run is now 575, and is about over.

**Painting Raffle.** Eric suggested we use a high quality photo instead of the actual painting, to avoid damaging it.

**Invasives Project.** Laura reported that Polatin Ecological Services came to the Meadow and Pond today. They treated all the phragmites, knotweed and yellow iris in both areas. “You will not see a difference; the plants will die slowly in the next six weeks as the herbicide is carried to the roots.

“Then they started on the reasonably small woody invasives: the Japanese barberry near the stone bridge and stone steps plus a few other small ones; the smaller Multiflora rose on the King St. side of the Pond. Finally they attacked the mixture of invasives (Bittersweet, Burning bush, Multiflora rose, and Black locust in the area on the parking lot side of the Meadow up to Mill Lane. They are putting a proposal together to treat the larger woody invasives later this fall.

Laura said that the woody brush has been piled up and will be chipped by DPW next week.

**8. Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at Trustees’ Room, Rockport Public Library.**

**9. Adjourn 9:05 p.m.**

**Approved:**

**Samuel W. Coulbourn**

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