



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, November 18th, 2015 Trustees' Room, Rockport Public Library

7:00 p.m. Chairman **Sam Coulbourn** called the meeting to order. Members present: **Barbara Sparks, Charmaine Blanchard, Aileen Morrissey, Marcia Lombardo, Stephanie Woolf, and Ted Tarr**. Also present were **Gunilla Caulfield, Laura Hallowell, and Eric Hutchins**, Advisors to the RMMC. **Shannon Mason** was absent. **Neil Emond**, visitor, was also present.

1. Public input. Charmaine announced that nine or ten Cubs had taken part in the cleanup on Saturday, Nov. 21st.

Eric stated that Millbrook Meadow Committee should pay close attention to what is being done – or *not* done--- at the MBTA Station. The large plan for rebuilding the station area calls for installing a comprehensive stormwater drainage system, including a Stormceptor for separating out solids like road sand, and other pollutants that will otherwise find their way into our Mill Pond. Inasmuch as we are planning to conduct an expensive operation to remove sediment from the Pond, it seems as if we should insist on early installation of that system. Charmaine said that she had talked with Tim Olson of DPW recently and he had told her that DPW plans to install the Stormceptor soon.

2. Committee Business

Treasurer's Report. Marcia reported that as of now we have \$984.12 in our expense fund; \$148,512.62 in the Lura Hall Phillips Fund; and \$0.00 In the CPC fund.

Approval of Submitted Bills. Marcia moved to pay a claim for \$49.00 postage stamps submitted by Sam. Aileen seconded. All voted to approve.

Approve Minutes of Sep. 9th and Oct. 14th. Charmaine moved to approve the Sept. 9 minutes, Ted seconded. All voted to approve. Barbara moved to approve the Oct. 14 minutes, Aileen seconded. All voted to approve.

ECCF Fund is now at \$91,455.00.

Raffle ticket sales for Pam Fox' painting came to \$3800.00. Expenses were \$76.20 for printing tickets and \$184.25 for Massachusetts raffle permit fee. Net \$3539.55.

3. Update on the Status of Millbrook Meadow Restoration Permitting. Barbara reported that on Oct. 19 she and others met with the Capital Improvement Planning Committee (CIPC) about our fund requests. They were non-committal.

On Oct. 20 she and Shannon met with (I cannot remember...Barbara?).

On Oct. 22 She, Sam and Shannon met with the Traffic and Parking Committee (Linda Sanders, Police Chief Horvath and Joe Parisi) in the Meadow to discuss handicap parking. After viewing the situation Linda suggested that we could apply for an exemption.

On Nov. 5 Linda announced at a Department Heads' meeting that there was no money for the coming fiscal year. Then she rescinded and asked department heads to study ways they could cut expenses for the new year.

On Nov. 9 Joe Parisi met with Barbara, Sam, Shannon and Gunilla to discuss next steps in pursuing funding. The DPW Commissioners are very clear that our Phase I is a "no go"—dredging must come first. A workshop is planned with DPW Commissioners, Board of Selectmen, Millbrook Meadow Committee, Chair of Community Preservation Committee, hopefully before the CPC meeting on Dec. 8th.

On Nov. 12 Barbara talked with Ruth George (CPC Chair) to discuss our modifying our application to replace our request for Meadow restoration with one for Dredging and Pond restoration.

On Nov. 17 Jason Williams of MMI reported that Massachusetts Historical Commission had replied to our request for consideration of this project. Their reply was favorable. They suggested that we install interpretive signage to point out historical events and structures that once operated in the Meadow and Pond. The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe also replied, stating no objection, but requiring that if any archeological objects or human remains are found we should stop work immediately and contact them.

On Nov. 23 at 11 a.m. there will be a MEPA Walk-through. Barbara and Shannon will participate. Sam will be in hospital and therefore unable to attend.

Laura asked about asking for residents to make affirmative statements on the permitting process, and Eric urged comment letters.

Laura asked questions about sequence of funding restoration. Sam replied that essentially, we will request Dredging at Spring Town Meeting, 2016 and put our request for the Meadow restoration on the list for consideration at the Fall 2016 Town Meeting.

Barbara stated that Spring Town Meeting will be on April 2, 2016.

4. Rockport Garden Club Letter re plantings in Meadow and possible hiring of Arborist.

Barbara reported that, pursuant to earlier suggestions, we will ask Arborist David Adams to walk through the Meadow with us to discuss trees which can and should be saved, which should be pruned, and those which should be replaced.

5. DPW/Maintenance Plans. Laura reported that she, Stephanie and Ted had met with Joe Parisi and Chuck Osmand on Nov. 17 to discuss the Park Maintenance Plan, which will state what DPW will do regularly, what will be done by the Conservancy, and what will be done by Conservancy or Garden Club volunteers. She said that the meeting was very productive and there was general agreement.

Eric suggested that the maintenance plan should state that all structural elements (e.g. culvert, and water system) be the task of DPW. He also suggested that the boardwalk should be maintained by DPW.

6. Meadow and Pond Use Request Policy and Procedure. Charmaine will bring this up at our December meeting.

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

Pam Fox Painting Raffle drawing was held November 15, with excellent arrangements and setup by Shannon. Dianne Anderson was hostess and she and Sam provided cookies, apple cider and bottled water. Turnout was low—maximum of 20. Pam Fox conducted the drawing, and the painting was won by Georgeann Meunier of 51 Marmion Way. She and her husband have a B&B there. Maura Wadlinger sold her the ticket; she took the painting to deliver to her. Shannon had prepared two very attractive and sturdy tote bags with the MM logo on them for use as additional prizes. Pam drew these and they were awarded to one person in Reading and one locally.

Sam read a letter of appreciation to Pam Fox at the Drawing.

Sam thanked Shannon and everyone who had worked to make this raffle a financial success.

7. Public Meeting Plans. Members discussed this. Barbara suggested that our situation was too fluid now to see a benefit to an informational meeting. She suggested waiting to see how things gel. Aileen said that many neighbors are very interested in the dredging and a briefing on that will be very welcome, and it will be good public relations to offer such a briefing.

8. New Business. Sam reported that Laura has requested to be a member of MMC. Laura exited the room and a vote was held. Members voted unanimously to recommend her membership to the Board of Selectmen. Sam will prepare and send a letter to the Selectmen.

9. Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 9th, 2015 at Trustees' Room, Rockport Public Library.

10. Adjournment: Stephanie moved and Marcia seconded. All voted to adjourn 8:28 p.m.

Approved:

Samuel W. Coulbourn

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