



# Rockport Millbrook Meadow Committee

P.O. Box 51, Rockport, MA 01966

[www.millbrookmeadow.org](http://www.millbrookmeadow.org)

*Charmaine Blanchard  
Laura Hallowell  
Shannon Mason, Vice Chair  
Barbara Sparks  
Stephanie Woolf*

*Samuel W. Coulbourn, Chair  
Marcia Lombardo, Treasurer  
Aileen Morrissey  
Frederick H. Tarr III*

## Minutes of Meeting Wednesday, December 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, Charmaine Blanchard, Aileen Morrissey, Marcia Lombardo, Laura Hallowell, Stephanie Woolf, and Ted Tarr.** Also present were **Gunilla Caulfield** and **Eric Hutchins**, Advisors to the RMMC.

**1. Public input.** None

### **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.

**Discussion of bill reimbursement and use of donated funds.** Shannon reported that the raffle of Pamela Fox's painting grossed \$3800.00. After 5% Massachusetts tax for raffles, the Conservancy netted \$3,610, which will be placed in the ECCF Meadow & Pond Fund.

**Laura Hallowell proposed for MMC membership.** Sam reported that the Board of Selectmen approved the membership of Laura in the MMC at their meeting on Dec. 1. Sam noted Laura's excellent performance as an advisor for two years, as well as her leadership in attacking invasive plant life, and welcomed her to MMC.

**Approve Minutes of Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>.** Aileen moved to approve the minutes, Shannon seconded. All voted to approve.

**ECCF Fund** is now at \$91,665.00.

### **3. Update on the Status of Millbrook Meadow Restoration Permitting.**

**MEPA Walk.** Barbara reported that the MEPA walk in the Meadow was held on Nov. 23, and reports and letters of support are coming in.

**DPW Commissioners' Meeting Dec. 2.** Barbara and others attended the monthly meeting of DPW Commissioners. The Commissioners support dredging as the first phase of the restoration of Meadow and Pond. Tim Olson of DPW came with a detailed and pared-down list of dredging-associated tasks prepared by MMI (Engineer's Opinion of Probable Costs for Dredging of Mill Pond at 50% Design, dated Dec. 2, 2015), amounting to \$665,000. Paul Sena stated that the Commissioners would support this to the extent funding is available.

Ted brought up the boardwalk, insisting that this valuable item be addressed, as an important addition for teaching children about nature.

**CPC Meeting Dec. 8.** Barbara, Laura, Shannon, Ted, Gunilla, Eric, Sam and Joe Parisi attended the meeting. Barbara reported that Ruth George, Chair of Community Preservation Committee (CPC) had asked for a breakdown of items in the proposed dredging request, categorized into priorities. Laura had prepared this breakdown of costs and explained what several of the items were, after obtaining this information from Jason Williams. CPC chair said that they were not ready to vote on an amount that they would request for this project at Spring Town Meeting. Discussions with CPC will continue at their monthly meetings in January, February, and March. Spring Town Meeting is April 2, 2016. Eric provided his observations on the meeting and offered advice, particularly on the permitting process. He suggested that at this point we should "Home in on dredging." He noted that the permitting process might address how much of the cattails can be removed. Charmaine said that abutters and others, particularly skaters, are very concerned that the Pond be restored, and more of the cattails removed.

One item in the plan for the Pond is to install large boulders to anchor certain parts of the Pond edge. Eric volunteered to offer several large boulders from his property for this purpose, which should be a significant cost saving. Charmaine suggested there will be opportunities for local people to donate granite for lower-priority items, such as the proposed skating plaza, that may not be funded by CPC.

Barbara said that Erin Battistelli, Chair of the Board of Selectmen, had attended the DPW Commissioners' meeting, and said she would ask the Board for their support for this project, as an "action item" at one of the BOS upcoming meetings. Members stressed the importance of getting active support from the Selectmen. Barbara said that the DPW Commissioners consider this *sine qui non*, since MMC is a Selectmen's Committee. Sam will contact Erin and request a time when MMC representatives can bring the Selectmen up to date on our project and request their support.

Barbara proposed that we submit an Application to CPC Feb. 1, 2016 to request CPA Funding in 2017.

**4. Invasives treatment.** Laura reported on the status of treatment of invasives in the Meadow and around the Pond. Laura reported that Russ Cohen, a noted authority on foraging and eating wild plants, will walk with Laura and others in the Meadow Tuesday, Dec. 15.

**5. DPW/Maintenance Plans, as amended Nov. 18.** Laura reported on the status of this agreement between DPW and MMC for future maintenance in the Meadow. Laura reported that Joe Parisi had accepted the revisions proposed by MMC for the Maintenance draft.

**6. Rockport Garden Club Letter re plantings in Meadow and possible hiring of Arborist.** Barbara reported that she and Laura had taken a walk in the Meadow with David Adams, Arborist. They looked at all the trees, and David suggested trees which should be kept, which needed pruning or other work, and which should be cut out. David will submit a bill for his services.

**7. Meadow and Pond Use Request Policy and Procedure.** Charmaine circulated her latest draft of a form for persons to use in requesting to hold a gathering in the Meadow. Members discussed suggested upper levels for numbers of people in groups allowed for private events in the Meadow, but it appears that it is very hard to establish guidelines because the guiding idea is the *intensity* of the requested use. Charmaine will work on this and submit a revision at the January meeting.

**8. Fundraising Sub-Committee, Publicity and Community Outreach.** Members agree to hold an information session on Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2016, in place of our regular meeting. Shannon will request use of the Brenner Friends' Room. Barbara will consult with her DPW Liaison Team and lay groundwork for the event. Barbara suggested that the timing is good for such a session, a couple of weeks before our hearing before the Rockport Conservation Commission.

**9. New Business.** Shannon introduced a letter from Rockport Music (RM), requesting use of the Meadow on Saturday, August 27, 2016. They wish to repeat the Gala event they held in the Meadow last June, but with a slightly larger tent. Members noted that they were very scrupulous in restoring the Meadow as they had found it. Sam noted that the event had produced excellent publicity for the Meadow and our restoration project, as well as at least \$7000 in donations. Ted insisted that we negotiate this to obtain a suitable "deal". Aileen and Charmaine brought up the point that we must be consistent in our use of the Meadow. If we turn down a wedding of 100 people but permit this larger gathering, we will get complaints. Members agreed that we must shape our Meadow use policy, still in preparation, so that it is consistent. Barbara moved that we recommend approval of the RM request to the Board of Selectmen, and Laura seconded. Marcia having departed before this event came up, there were eight members present. Seven voted to approve, one against. Sam will send a favorable recommendation to the Selectmen.

**10. Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Public Information Meeting in the Brenner Friends' Room Rockport Public Library.**

**11. Adjournment:** Barbara moved and Charmaine seconded. All voted to adjourn at 9:19 p.m.

**Approved:**

**Samuel W. Coulbourn**

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