

## **Millbrook Meadow Committee 2009 Annual Report**

The Millbrook Meadow Committee met in February and DPW Director Parisi presented an outline and update of the Dam Reconstruction Project. Due to the historic aspects of the dam site, a Chapter 106 Review had to be done. The Review was completed over the summer, and the Project has moved along and is now going through additional permitting by the various agencies involved.

The MMC met again in April and planned their annual spring cleanup. Thanks to Ted Tarr, David Cutler, Sam Coulbourn and Jeff Segel for their efforts.

A planting of herbaceous perennials was implemented on the hillside by the stairway to the Meadow. Plantings included bugbane, lupine, penstemon, astillbe, and polemonium. These plants are attractive to butterflies. Hopefully this will encourage a variety of butterflies in addition to the Monarchs which congregate there to feed on the milkweed and asters.

The Committee would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Liam Crane for their generous gift to the Meadow, and the DPW for their superb work in maintaining the Meadow.

As usual, the charming and naturalized open space design of the Meadow was the venue of choice for several weddings and community events: the Rockport Acoustic Festival, the Annual Easter Egg Hunt, the Reading Events of the Rockport Library, the Festival for International Peace Day, and the Blessing of the Animals.

Looking ahead, we anticipate that the reconstruction of the dam will be completed soon, which will allow us to proceed with the planting of a new willow tree (generously donated by Toad Hall) and the addition of some native blueberry bushes. These plantings had to be postponed while the construction was pending. I'd like to point out that people from all over the world come to Rockport to see the natural flora of Cape Ann., and we need to be more attentive in our efforts to control the invasive plants in the Meadow. For more information on invasive plants, please consult the New England Wildflower Society website.

For 2010, the Committee invites everyone to enjoy the Meadow, to become members of the Committee, to attend any of its meetings, or to join us for our Spring cleanup.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alice Segel, Chairperson