



Rockport Millbrook Meadow Committee

P.O. Box 51, Rockport, MA 01966

www.millbrookmeadow.org

Charmaine Blanchard
Laura Hollowell, Project Mgr., Secretary
Richard Lorigan
Aileen Morrissey
Stephanie Woolf

Samuel W. Coulbourn, Chair
Marcia Lombardo, Treasurer
Shannon Mason, Vice Chair
Barbara Sparks, Art + Play

Minutes of Meeting Wednesday, August 21, 2019 Trustees' Room, Rockport Public Library



Meadow Re-opening Aug. 17. *L to R: Sel. Wilkinson, Sel. Donnelly, Sparks, Caulfield, DPW Parisi, Hollowell, Coulbourn, Sen. Tarr, Sel. Campbell, Mason, Blanchard, Sel. Murphy, Lorigan, Woolf, Morrissey. [Photo by Adriane Schulz]*

SUMMARY: Committee approved a design for planting the eastern boundary of the Meadow. “Grand Re-opening” was deemed successful. Town Meeting September 9 will vote on CPC nomination of Meadow long bench for \$15,000. Committee discussed fishing in Pond and protection of “Millie” from dogs, decided “no signs”. Stormwater or other drainage into Mill Brook continues to be a problem. Committee will man HarvestFest booth Oct. 19.

7:00 p.m. Chair **Sam Coulbourn** called the meeting to order. Members present **Barbara Sparks, Rich Lorigan, Aileen Morrissey, Laura Hollowell, Marcia Lombardo, Stephanie Woolf** and **Charmaine Blanchard**. **Liz Fatouhi** of Rockport Garden Club and **Eric Hutchins**, Environmental Adviser, were also present. **Shannon Mason** was absent.

1. **Public Input:** None.

2. Committee Business

a. Treasurer's Report: Marcia reported the following as of 7/8/19

Town appropriated	\$275.00
Operating	\$18.82
Lura Phillips Fund	\$0

<u>ECCF as of 8/5/19</u>	<u>\$50,832.92</u>
restricted solar light	\$2,000.00
Plantings	\$10,166.50
Benches	\$3,889.50
Maintenance.	<u>\$ 710.00</u>

Punch List	+/- \$15,000.00
ECCF Available	\$19,006.92

Grand Opening donations, sales	\$575.00
Pier 23 fund-raiser	\$40.00

Marcia reported that Pier 23 will offer another fund-raiser Wednesday, Sept. 25 from 11am to 8 pm and urged members to patronize.

b. Bills: *ACTION ITEMS.

Gloucester Rental, for chairs at Re-Opening, reimburse Shannon \$46.50. Laura moved, Aileen seconded, all voted to approve 8-0.

O'Brien Benches, \$3797.50 Charmaine moved, Stephanie seconded, all voted to approve, 8-0.

Harvest Fest October 19, \$40.00 from Town appropriated. Laura moved, Rich seconded, all approve, 8-0
Grasses for Whale, \$600.16, Aileen moved, Rich seconded, all voted to approve, 8-0. [**Subsequent note:** Barbara asked for a copy of the invoice. Prices charged were not correct; invoice will be corrected and resubmitted.] *ACTION ITEM.

Mt. Pleasant Memorials stone for Shade Garden, reimb. Sam, \$375. Charmaine moved, Laura seconded, all voted to approve, 8-0.

Daily Printing for Re-Opening, reimb. Shannon \$183.28, Rich moved, Barbara seconded, all approve, 8-0.

Shaw's, popcorn, etc. for Re-Opening, reimb. Shannon, \$50.52. Laura moved, Stephanie seconded, all voted to approve, 9-0.

Print Banner for Re-Opening, \$51.38, reimb. Shannon. Laura moved, Aileen seconded, all approve, 8-0.

c. Minutes. Laura presented the minutes of July 17 as corrected. Marcia moved that they be accepted. Rich seconded; the motion passed 7-0, 1 abstaining. *ACTION ITEM.

3. Update Status of Millbrook Meadow Restoration

a. RCC: Laura reported that the Rockport Conservation Commission approved the following minor amendments to the Restoration: the fence, the six benches, and five additional trees as recommended by Jason to provide shade to the wetland plantings. They are: three Elderberry or *Amelanchia* between the dogwood thicket and the downstream willow, and two more willows, one the 1912 sapling. RCC approval means these can be planted without going back to RCC if MMC decides to go ahead.

b. Border Planting. Laura introduced Liz Fatouhi of the Rockport Garden Club to the Committee; she is a Master Gardener and has had her own landscape business in Vermont. She also designed and helps to maintain the new garden at the dam. Laura and Liz presented their plan for Border Plantings. There was discussion. Charmaine moved that we approve the plan, Rich seconded, all voted to approve, 8-0. Stephanie confirmed that the changes do not have to be presented to the Beautification Committee. Barbara asked if the dogwood thicket could be cut to 3-4' and cleaned out to remove invasives. There was agreement that this should be done this winter. *ACTION ITEM.

c. 1912 Willow sapling: Laura explained that the tree has to be prepared if it is to survive. She will contact the owner, Julie Fariel on Norwood Ave, 978-273-2202. ***ACTION ITEM.**

d. Jason's visit to create the punch list: Jason visited on August 1. He was very pleased with both the construction and the planting and thinks this project may be a candidate for a special award. He will prepare a comprehensive report. Some plants are dying; those areas will be reevaluated. He would like to see the five additional trees mentioned in (a) above, plus perhaps a row of trees on the Meadow side of the walking path and about three more on the east side of the playground, to shade it in the morning. ***ACTION ITEM.**

d. Pollution. Jason and Laura observed a milky liquid coming down Brook bank from Welcome's property. All the plantings in the area are dead. The DPW is taking the lead in investigating the problem. A second discharge from a 2nd floor gutter has caused a foot-deep hole. Eric pointed out that there are multiple stormwater discharge violations flowing into the Brook and have been for decades. We need to be vigilant in detecting and correcting them. ***ACTION ITEM.**

e. Electrical Outlet in Meadow. Charmaine suggested that it might be dangerous to children. Laura will look into a simple security solution like a child-resistant lock or latch. Jason will recommend that the electrical outlet posts be set in concrete to stabilize them. Eric suggested asking Jason how other parks have dealt with this problem. ***ACTION ITEM.**

f. Long Bench in Meadow. Fall Town Meeting is September 9. Barbara reminded members that the Community Preservation Committee will recommend \$15,000 for the stone Long Bench below the dam as Article E. When funding is approved and the construction bid is awarded, Joe Parisi and Chris DeRosa will coordinate selection of stone and construction supervision, ***ACTION ITEM.**

g. Damage to Meadow piping at Rockport Music Gala. Forklift damage; suggest provide large sitting stones to protect embedded fittings. ***ACTION ITEM.**

h. Future Maintenance. Marcia announced that she is working with the Town Administrator on a line item for Spring Town Meeting. ***ACTION ITEM.**

Some additional issues that MMC needs to address are the following:

How will we keep people from running over the water hydrants with vehicles? A sitting stone for the one at the base of the dam has been suggested. ***ACTION ITEM.**

How will we keep unauthorized vehicles from entering the park via Mill Lane, but allow relatively easy access when desired? ***ACTION ITEM.**

Can we develop a check list for Meadow event users which will alert them to the water, electrical facilities and path edging, all of which need to be protected? What person (DPW? MMC?) will explain these features and make sure they are not damaged? What is the budget for this? ***ACTION ITEM.**

All of these are issues which Joe Parisi wants to take some time to resolve thoughtfully.

j. Scout Path on Pond. Laura proposed that we cut lumber walkway in half-length so that they can be moved to allow our growing shrubs more space. She and Aileen will assess the situation. ***ACTION ITEM.**

k. Final location of benches. A special meeting has been posted for the Meadow on Thursday, Aug. 29 at 6 p.m. to decide finally on placement of benches in vicinity of whale and near playground. Barbara suggested that since the Long Bench below the dam will be fairly close to the playground, it might be better to locate the one intended for the playground in the vicinity of the Native Shade Garden, a location for quite enjoyment of the Frog Pond and stream. ***ACTION ITEM.**

4. Fundraising Sub-Committee, Publicity and Community Outreach

a. Report of Grand Re-Opening: Charmaine noted that there seemed to be a lull after the ribbon cutting, and until the Duck Race. Popcorn distribution was popular; bandannas were popular, children loved the mini-ponies. Senator Bruce Tarr's remarks were excellent. He had studied the Meadow website and was very familiar with past events. Jace Mason's three-member combo was well-received. Marcia and Aileen signed up seven in the Conservancy and sold \$225 in calendars and tee-shirts and took in \$350 in donations. Green ribbons across the Meadow and on "Millie" were attractive. Sculptor Thomas Berger made a surprise visit and was very pleased to see children climbing on the whale. Laura and Sam took the

donor of the Native Shade Garden over to see it and she seemed pleased. Shannon, Betsy Giannoccaro and others did a marvelous job in setting it all up. Sam thanked everyone for an excellent event.

b. Acoustic Music Festival August 11. Sam reported that the event seemed much better organized than in the past. Some 400 attended. By comparison of photos of past events this was best attendance since 2014.

c. History Booklet Project. Rich reported that he is still looking for a writer.

5. Events

i. Blessing of the Animals, Sunday, Oct. 6, 2-4 p.m. Stephanie moved that we recommend approval of this annual event, Aileen seconded. All voted to approve, 8-0. Sam will notify the Town Administrator.

*ACTION ITEM

Grandparents' Day in the Meadow, Saturday, September 8, 2019, 10 a.m. to noon.

Blessing of the Animals, Oct. 6, 2 to 4 p.m.

Harvest Fest in Harvey Park, Sat. Oct. 19, 2019.

6. New Business.

a. Fishing in Mill Pond. Members discussed a recent incident at the Mill Pond when an abutter was accused of "bullying" a nine-year old boy fishing in the Pond. Eric had contacted the Deputy Director at Mass Fish and Wildlife to see if a local ordinance could limit the taking of animals. Because it is considered a right to hunt, a community cannot limit the taking of animals but can limit access, so this will not help us. Fishing is allowed, as is taking of frogs and turtles.

Members discussed ways to prevent people depleting scarce stock of frogs and turtles. Eric offered suggestion from his wife, Julie: for a sign: "If you need, or want, to catch or handle and fish or wildlife, please return them safely so that others can enjoy them." Members discussed and decided not to place any signs at this time. Stewardship, rather than additional rules, is likely to be more successful .

b. Dogs and Millie. Woman contacted DPW complaining that dog owners were letting their dogs on leashes urinate on Millie and on the pea stone surrounding her, so that it becomes a health hazard for children playing on the whale. Members discussed and decided not to place any signs at this time. Barbara has asked Joan Wood to ask RGC gardeners to rinse the whale and stone when they are watering the entry garden.

7. Next Meeting will be on Wednesday, September 18, 2019.

8. Adjournment Marcia moved to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. Stephanie seconded; the motion passed 8/0

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Hollowell

Approved:



Samuel W. Coulbourn,
Chairman

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

