



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, November 20, 2019 Trustees' Room, Rockport Public Library



Darlene Trumbour leads LifeVest Inside Kindness dance with Rockport School Children Nov. 10.

SUMMARY: Committee discussed future tree planting and voted to hold a public meeting Mar. 4, 2020 to discuss tree planting in the Meadow and around the Pond. Plan for completing Christmas Wreath Sale.

7:02 p.m. Chair **Sam Coulbourn** called the meeting to order. Members present **Aileen Morrissey, Rich Lorigan, Marcia Lombardo, Shannon Mason, and Barbara Sparks. Laura Hollowell, Charmaine Blanchard, and Stephanie Woolf** were absent. **Chris DeRosa**, Meadow landscape adviser, and **Merry Seppala** also attended.

1. **Public Input:** Merry Seppala said she was present to discuss trees and other Meadow features.

2. Committee Business

a. **Treasurer's Report:** Marcia reported the following as of 11/12/19
Town appropriated \$83.62

Operating	\$18.82
Lura Phillips Fund	\$2532.94

ECCF as of 11/12/19 \$60,721.28

Restricted:	
Solar light	\$2,000.00
Plantings	\$7,899.38
Invasives	\$ 710.00
Punch List	+/- \$15,000.00
Long stone Sitting Wall	\$5,425.00
David Adams 2 trees pruned	\$500.00
Crabgrass Treatment	\$650.00
Dogwood Thicket pruning	\$1,200.00
Total Maint.	\$2,350.00
Total Restricted	\$33,384.38
ECCF Available	\$27,336.90

b. Bills: Shannon presented bills for wreath making amounting to \$1408.59. Marcia moved to pay, Aileen seconded, all voted to approve. 6/0. ***ACTION ITEM.**

c. Minutes. Shannon moved and Rich seconded motion to approve minutes for October 16; the motion passed. (6/0). ***ACTION ITEM.**

d. Publications and Publicity Officer. Sam suggested that we appoint Rich as Publications and Publicity chairman inasmuch as he is leading the effort to create a history booklet for the Meadow and Pond. After some discussion, Shannon suggested we table the measure. Without objection it was tabled.

3. Update Status of Millbrook Meadow Restoration and Maintenance. Laura was not present, so Marcia read her report:

a. Permit extended: The permit for the Millbrook Meadow restoration, DEP 632-0740, would have expired on Dec. 22, 2019. The RCC extended the permit on Nov. 13, 2019. Laura and Joe (Parisi, DPW) will write the required two reports/year for seasonal monitoring (perhaps with help from MMI). A second requirement is a BMP maintenance plan to be approved by the RCC. Laura and Joe will work on that; other MMC members who would like to be involved should contact Laura.

b. Maintenance activities: Rich, Aileen and Laura continued to water the new grass and shrubs until early November. The two strong storms were particularly hard on the recently planted shrubs which were watered and rinsed off after each storm. Leaves were periodically raked off the areas where they were covering the new grass, between the Lura Phillips Steps and the Founder’s Bridge and around the play space. DPW mowed as directed as soon as the new grass could stand it, so there were not a lot of leaves to rake at Saturday’s clean-up. Jane Beddus helped tremendously by using her mower to mulch in many of those remaining. DPW deposited the grass/leaf clippings on the mulched border where we will need them for mulch next spring; a lot of material was spread around shrubs during the clean-up. This helps to solve two problems: DPW’s limited access to remove the material and our need for it to reduce the amount of mulch we need to buy next spring. *Wilt-Pruf* was sprayed on all the Rhododendrons to prevent dehydration over the winter, and the Bayberry will be treated this week by Lisa Simms.

The water lines were blown out, the drinking fountain was serviced and wrapped for the winter, and the pump was removed for safe keeping. The Lura Philips Steps entrance has been closed for the winter with rope and a new sign in order to protect the grass at the base of the steps, our most fragile area. The remaining caution tape was removed.



Fall Clean-up Team, L to R: Laura Hollowell, Nan Blue, Jane Beddus, Susan Catalogna, Lisa Simms, Shannon Mason and Rich Lorigan

c. Clean-up: Our helpers at the clean-up were Jane Beddus, Nan Blue, Sue Catalogna, Sam Coulbourn, Laura Hollowell, Rich Lorigan, Shannon Mason, Lisa Simms and Molly Whelsky’s Girl Scout Troop #69112.

d. Tree Locations. At our October meeting the committee voted to plant an “*allee*” of four maple trees as part of the Border Planting, but since we needed to avoid planting trees near our newly installed waterline these would be planted along the Meadow side of the stone dust path, about six feet inside the Meadow. Afterward, received several questions and comments from the public and combined with objections voiced by the minority voters in the October meeting, this caused us to hold up planting. Because it is now past the time for fall planting according to Laura, we thought it would be more prudent to hold a public meeting during the winter or spring and hear the ideas and concerns of the public and then prepare new planting plans.

Shade. Recognizing that shade in the meadow is desirable, Barbara suggested considering the Beach Street entry area, where two trees (Honey Locust and Willow) had provided shade prior to removal for the restoration. In addition, a Tupelo had been planted in 2012 but had not survived due to incorrect lawn maintenance procedures.

Barbara gave background information about the red maple donated by Wolf Hill. The donation had been solicited by Barbara and Susan Gray several months ago. A significant location and appropriate recognition should be forthcoming from MMC, as would be the case for any donation. She suggested the west bank of the Mill Pond, as there is space in an area where there is no shade, and sufficient distance from the ocean to lessen potential damage from salt spray. Shannon noted that this would face objections by abutters.

Discussion turned to the proposal to plant an *allee* of four maples along the stone dust path, six feet into the Meadow lawn. Landscape advisor Chris DeRosa offered information about techniques for containing or directing tree roots away from PVC water pipes. Barbara suggested there are trees that have less aggressive root systems that could be considered for the border. In summary, members would like further discussion about options for planting in the border as originally delineated, avoiding encroachment on the meadow lawn.

Merry Seppala, citizen, asked about the reason for the steps down to both ponds. Shannon explained that these were for visitors to be able to get closer to the water and wildlife on both ponds, and for skaters to get on the Mill Pond more handily. Merry also suggested that we consider providing picnic tables in the Meadow. Barbara replied that we plan to provide a long stone sitting wall below the dam, which visitors can use for sitting, and spreading out their picnic, etc.

e. Public Meeting to discuss Tree Locations. Aileen proposed such a meeting be held on Wednesday, March 4, 2020. She moved this, and Marcia seconded. All voted to approve. ***ACTION ITEM.**

f. Art + Play subcommittee. Chris has found a source for Rockport granite suitable for capstones, and a company that can slice stone slabs to the desired thickness. However, it will be expensive; costs to be determined.

4. Fundraising Sub-Committee, Publicity and Community Outreach

a. History Booklet Project. Rich reported that he has gathered quite a few old photos and the project is taking shape.

b. Wreath Sale. Shannon reported that 38 wreaths have been ordered. We plan to make 55, so 17 more need to be sold. They will be built from Nov. 22 to 24. Need people to help supervise delivery to customers at Greenhouse on Sunday, Dec. 1, from 2 to 4 p.m. as Shannon will be out of town. She has arranged with Duffy for use of his greenhouse, but an artist is located there now, and her paintings take up much of the space so we can still work there, but it will require adjustment. We will need berries, pinecones, etc. to add to wreaths, Shannon said. Aileen has volunteered to take charge of the Dec. 1 wreath delivery event. Marcia will collect payments and Barbara and Sam will assist. We still need more volunteers for the event, to prepare for the 2 to 4 p.m. public distribution, offer cider and cookies, etc. and clean up afterward.

c. Lifevest Inside and Rockport Public Schools Dance for Kindness in Meadow was held Nov. 10 as part of an annual worldwide effort to teach people to show kindness. About 50 elementary students, led by Darlene Trumbour, teacher and organizer, and many parents and other Rockporters took part.

5. Events

a. Wreath Sale. Work on wreaths Nov. 22-24; pick up at Duffy's Greenhouse Sunday, Dec. 1.

b. Tree Location Public Meeting at Brenner Friends' Room, Rockport Library, Wednesday, March 4, 2020.

6. New Business. Marcia discussed moving the bench located on the Meadow path nearest her home, because it has become a frequent all-night resting place for homeless people, she said. Members suggested that a partial fence might be installed along her property line, or more border plantings to prevent intruders accessing her property. Others suggested that we should encourage a more robust police patrol during nighttime in the Meadow. Barbara suggested that path lighting might help. Shannon suggested that MMC contact the Police and request them to patrol here. ***ACTION ITEM.**

7. Next Meeting will be on **Wednesday, December 18, 2019.**

8. Adjournment Barbara moved to adjourn at 8:57 p.m. Marcia seconded; the motion passed 6/0

Approved:

Samuel W. Coulbourn,
Chairman

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