



## Rockport Parks and Beautification

207-236-9648 101 Main Street Rockport, Maine 04856

January 8, 2020 - Richardson Room - Town Office - 5:00 P.M.

In attendance: Haunani Wallace, Mark Kelley, Doug Cole, Abbie Leonard, Steve Smith, Anna Remsen, Mike Young

Via Phone: Lea Anne Dunton, Sue Kauck

### MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of December 11, 2019 meeting

Motion: Haunani Wallace

Second: Anna Remsen

Vote: Unanimous

### WALKER PARK

Haunani reported that through a chance encounter, she met Bob Williams and struck up a conversation about our committee working to beautify our parks. At that time, Bob told Haunani that he had a plaque for Walker Park at his shop that was ordered in 1982 and never picked up. Per approval of the Select Board, that plaque will be rededicated in honor of Arthur Walker. Doug Cole has located his great granddaughter and she is happy to attend the rededication which will happen in 2020 after we acquire a granite stone large enough for the plaque.

### LIBRARY LANDSCAPE PLAN

Anna Remsen and Lea Anne Dunton worked very hard reviewing the plans submitted by Keith Smith, the landscape architect for the Library.

They reported that Keith did an overall great job, but they had some concerns.

They believe that the design is over planted especially with some native plants that would need more maintenance and therefore more money for upkeep.

Some of the plants do not have a long bloom life and some are straggly. We have to be especially aware that this will be a problem at the Library entrance.



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They were worried about being able to plant in the “planting pockets” that will be near the terrace. They were especially worried about trees being able to be planted.

Steve Smith assured us that the grading will be coming up a couple of feet, so there shouldn't be a problem.

Steve also thought that Keith would understand and be open to the revisions suggested by Anna and Lea Anne. Haunani agreed to send their suggestions to him.

Anna and Lea Anne want us to know that we don't want to approve plantings that are a slave to maintenance and dead heading. We need plantings that are beautiful on their own. Also, we need to realize that plants that only bloom for a short time, such as magnolias might not be the best choice. They feel that fewer plantings will actually be better.

Mike Young agreed that plantings that need less maintenance should be chosen especially near the Young's property because it will be difficult to work in that area due to the steep terrain and rip rap. Mike doesn't like the idea of hemlock, but perhaps arborvitae used with softer evergreens would be a good choice next to the Young's property as well as perhaps a grassy area and native plants as suggested by Anna and Lea Anne.

Some other suggestions from Anna and Lea Anne were the use of ornamental grasses, roses and dwarf hydrangeas for under the window in the children's section, suggestions for near the terrace were: junipers on either side of the bench along with hydrangeas and viburnum.

Anna and Lea Anne will work on ideas for the smaller areas in the future.

If we would like another tour of the site, we should consult either Nate from Phi Builders or Doug Cole.

Steve Smith reported that he is revising lighting options using pole lamps of differing heights for the exterior of the Library and will update us in the future.



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Ben Blackmon from the Library will work with his donors to establish the Butterfly Garden.

Haunani thanked Anna and Lea Anne for all of their hard work reviewing the plan.

### MEMORIAL PARK

Anna and Lea Anne also worked on their drawings for Memorial Park. They decided that it would be best to have 3 sugar maples and 1 copper beech and the tree dedicated to Dave Barry's wife. The beech is a specimen tree and will need to be set back due to its size.

Of special concern to Steve Smith and others is the area of staggered evergreens and blooming plants that will be planted in an area in front of the parking spaces to shield Beth Davis (abutting neighbor) from the headlights of the cars pulling in and out of the spaces. We were assured that the design would take her needs into consideration. Mark Kelley and Haunani volunteered to meet with Beth to reassure her that we understand her concerns.

Mark Kelley wanted us to know that there is a veteran who would like to give us input on the walkway in Memorial Park, but he was too ill to attend the meeting.

Mark also wanted to know if we could look into changing the bump out in front of the Library to accommodate more parking spaces. He would like as many as would be safely possible.

Doug Cole reminded us that the work on Memorial Park is a volunteer effort. He will talk to Town Manager, Bill Post to see if Public Works could help us at all with the work.

As with the Library, the only thing that Phi is contracted to do is put down loam and seed.

Sue Kauck wanted to know if there would be any opportunity to plant an evergreen anywhere in Memorial Park that could be lighted for the holidays. Anna and Lea Anne said that they'd look into that.

### BEAUTIFICATION IDEAS FOR 2020



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Mike Young suggested a new path from Harbor Park that would take pedestrians to a legal and safe crosswalk to cross Pascal Ave.. He said that his crew could make a new path in a week and we could have plantings along the path.

He felt that improvement work had been done in the area of Route 90 and 17 and that other areas could benefit more from an upgrade at this time.

He also felt that the area near the dumpsters near Rockport Marine could use some attention.

Simonton Corner was also suggested as a possibility for improvement.

### FEBRUARY AGENDA

Doug Cole suggested the at the next meeting he would like each of us to recommend one new person to the committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Kauck



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