



## Rockport Parks and Beautification

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

May 13, 2020 - Zoom Meeting - 5:00 P.M.

In attendance: Haunani Wallace, Gretchen Leone, Steve Smith, Sue Kauck, Anna Remsen, Lea Anne Dunton, Eric Winters, Janice Baldwin, Bill Frohlich, Sally Cook, Doug Cole, Mark Kelley, Abbie Leonard

### MINUTES:

Motion to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2019 meeting.

Motion: Sue Kauck

Second: Haunani Wallace

Vote: Unanimous

Motion to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2020 meeting.

Motion: Haunani

Second: Steve Smith

Vote: Unanimous

We did not approve the minutes of the February 12, 2020 meeting or the February 26, 2020 workshop because Eric Winters was not yet present.

Motion to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2020 meeting.

Motion: Haunani Wallace

Second: Anna Remsen

Vote: Unanimous

Motion to approve Janice Baldwin as Vice-Chair.

Motion: Haunani Wallace

Second: Anna Remsen

Vote: Unanimous



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The meeting started with Haunani Wallace welcoming the committee via Zoom and the viewing public joining by Livestream and then pointed out the protocol of keeping ourselves muted unless we wished to talk.

Due to the Covid-19 situation the votes will be taken by roll call.

Public comments or questions should be sent to [aleonard@rockport.gov](mailto:aleonard@rockport.gov) or can be provided remotely via the Livestream chat.

### Update on Memorial Park

Haunani explained the background of what the Parks and Beautification Committee was tasked to do which was returning Memorial Park back to its original status as much as practical and if possible, to improve it. The catch was that there were no funds for either the design or the implementation. She then described how we were fortunate to have the very talented Anna Remsen of Seasons Downeast Design, and Lea Anne Dunton, the former VP of the Rockport Garden Club, active member and seasoned gardener who devoted much time and energy into the design that she brought up on the screen for all to see.

Haunani then went on to thank Judith Flock for reminding us that the drawing shown was not to scale.

She then went on to make a few points before our discussion.

The pin oaks are not going to be replanted in the Park because they are very susceptible to Brown Tail Moth infestation and we don't want the 3,400 residents exposed.

Next, she thanked the 2 anonymous donors that enabled the purchase of the 4 sugar maples, the copper beech and a balsam fir.

Doug Cole wanted to orient us to the what we were looking at on the drawing and pointed out that Memorial Park was just a name of the drawing, not the location of the Park.

Gretchen brought up Judith Flock's concerns about the lack of green space.



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Anna explained that the buffer garden would be one grass strip from the parking spaces, just enough space for a lawn mower to mow through.

Gretchen wanted to make sure that there would be space for benches.

Sally Cook wanted to make sure that the car lights will be blocked for abutter, Beth Owens Davis.

Lea Anne said that the size of the plants will matter as a buffer and that do to budget constraints, we will have to purchase the size plants that we can afford.

Anna suggested that it would be good to stake out the intended areas once we would have access, perhaps in June. This would be easier to understand than the drawing.

Gretchen asked and Doug commented that Phi will do all of the final grading and putting the monuments back in place and seeding the grass.

Then Haunani answered the following questions sent in to her by neighbors ahead of the meeting.

Questions:

1. What is the status of the trees abutting the North and West property line abutting the Owens Davis property? Answer: There will be no changes to the trees abutting along the North and West property line abutting the Owens Davis property.
2. What is the status of the tree currently along Limerock Street in front of the Flock property? Answer: The tree on Limerick across the street from the Flock property is staying.
3. What will be the transition from the park to the abutting Owen Davis and Anderson properties? They are currently bark-mulch beds with some shrubs along the Owen Davis property and grass along the Anderson property. Answer: No change, they will be the same.
4. What provisions are being made to handle the water coming from the Union, Huse and Limerock properties above the park, running through a valley in the Anderson



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property? Answer: Haunani and Doug met with Mike Young who has replaced the old drainage pipe with 40 feet of perforated pipe and crushed rock. The drainage that's on the town's property is now better than ever with the new piping. Neighbors can join in at their own expense.

5. What is the cost of the plan as proposed? A. Trees B. Gardens C. Benches. Answer: A. Trees - \$4,600. As mentioned, the trees have been paid for by donations and Plants Unlimited is caring for them till time to plant. B. Gardens - Unknown, but we have commitments from town garden centers to assist us in providing some plants identified in the buffer garden. C. Benches - We hope to use Memorial/Legacy Benches which can be sponsored for 10 years for \$5,000. The one Memorial Bench In Goodridge Park has been purchased and will be moving to the Library property.
6. How much of this cost is already covered? Answer: As mentioned earlier, trees and their planting is already covered.
7. Were additional monies available, would the committee desire to have additional trees, gardens, benches? Answer: If we had additional money, we could have Memorial Benches and larger buffer plantings.

It was mentioned that the Town has a reserve account for donations to the Park and all were invited to donate to help fund the Park.

Request:

The neighbors respectfully requested and urged us to include in our recommendation to the Select Board that there be no additional encroachment on Memorial Park green space in the Town's planning for the additional parking required by the new library, new hotel and increased use of the Block and Union Square buildings.

Answer:

That is not this committee's purview. Later, it was reiterated that all parking is voted on by the Select Board.



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Steve Smith told us that the construction of the Library and the surrounding landscape grading and seeding comes before work will start on Memorial Park. Phi is contracted for the parking, the intersection, the final grading and the loam and seed of all of the disturbed areas. We should not expect anything to be done at Memorial Park till probably the end of July. Later, he added that the park might not be ready for planting till September. The response was that Fall can be a good time to plant as long as there is adequate watering.

At this point other questions were coming in via text and Livestream chat. These questions were as follows:

The Suroveks wanted to know where that bike rack was to be located and how large it was to be. The orientation of the drawing was confusing. The answer is that the bike rack is to be to the left of the parking and the size of the rack has yet to be determined. It was suggested that it should be staked out.

The Suroveks also had a concern that erosion is happening on the north side of their house that has never happened before. Doug said that that should be brought to the attention of Charlie Fratini at Phi.

It was asked if there will be repaving of House and Limerock St. after construction and the answer was that it was not going to be repaved.

It was brought up that water comes down from the Graffam property and runs onto Huse St.. Doug Cole said that this would need to be brought to the Town's attention.

Ruben Brown wants to know if trees will be blocking his view. He was told that we are just replacing the trees that had been in the park that had been taken down.

Judith Flock wanted to know who was going to maintain the garden and was told that our committee was probably going to tend the garden. She was also assured that the garden was going to have low maintenance plants and plants that would have some color year round.

Jan wanted to know if the pin oaks that were were removing from the plan were going to be replaced and the was told that they were not going to be replaced.



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It was asked why we were not just planting low dense evergreen shrubs and the response was that there were going to be a combination of plantings in the garden including evergreens.

It was discussed that the area near where the pin oaks were specified, perhaps a low growing evergreen, such as rhododendrons should be added as an additional screen. It was decided that Anna and Lea Ann would look into different plantings, possibly rhododendrons and what type of rhododendron would be best and most appropriate for the site as they vary in width and height.

We will be amending the drawings to replace the pin oaks with rhododendrons.

It was discussed that perhaps the balsam fir should be moved closer to the Owens Davis property for more of a shield from the headlights.

Eric wanted to know from whom we purchase the benches and was told they are from Weather End Furniture.

It was questioned whether we were going to have paths going through the park and it was pointed out that there are paths on the plan.

Jen Porter was assured that there was going to be space for children to play.

It was confirmed that Limerock was going to remain a two way street.

Sally said that there might be a problem with headlights going in and out and up and down Limerock.

Gretchen suggested that the parking should only be for the Library and no one should use it after Library hours. Mark Kelley confirmed that this will be public parking for other town events when the Library is not open.

Haunani wanted everyone to know that we could revisit the plans for future changes to plantings at a later date.

A neighbor suggested that Limerock St. become a footpath.



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Rich Anderson stated that the parking should consider the neighbors. He was told again that any parking issue has to go to the Select Board.

Gretchen wanted to know what happened to Andre. It appears that his epoxy has come apart and part of his face has fallen off. She was assured that he would be repaired.

Motion to recommend to the Select Board the plan for Memorial Park as drawn with 2 exceptions 1. The 2 pin oaks will be removed from the plan. 2. Committee to research planting to replace pin oaks, possibly rhododendrons but subject to possible revision based on future data collection with respect to headlights - Bill Frohlich

In discussion it was brought up that there could be alterations to the original plant material at a future date.

Second - Haunani Wallace

Vote - Unanimous

Sue offered to contact Beth Owens Davis to see how the headlights would be shining into her windows. It would be best to see the headlights from her perspective after the grading has been done.

We revisited the Rockport Parks Task List that Eric Winters had set up. We were encouraged to make sure that we knew how to access the list and be able to add to the list anything that we noticed that needed; weeding, cleaning, staining, etc..

Doug added that he felt that this is the backbone for our committee and that everyone needs to participate.

Rich Anderson wanted us to run tests as to how the headlights would affect the neighborhood and he was told that our committee could not authorize this type of test and that it would have to be cleared with Bill Post and Charlie Fratini of Phi.

Clean Up Rockport - We no longer have volunteers in place to head this event. No one on the committee felt that they could take this over.



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We were told that the Conservation Commission has a budget line for this and that Mike Young has purchased everything that would be needed.

Gretchen suggested that we could possibly get people from the prison to help with the clean up.

Haunani is going to get a contact list from Maggie Timmerman to see if that could help us to move forward.

It was asked if people could be fined for littering. Mark Kelley responded that it was very hard to enforce because you need to have an officer report the incident and then testify in court.

Haunani asked that we send her anything we would like brought up at the next meeting.

Motion to adjourn: Lea Anne Dunton

Second: Janice Baldwin

Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Kauck