



## Rockport Parks and Beautification Committee

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

### Minutes September 15, 2021 Rockport Public Library-5:00 P.M.

In attendance: Doug Cole, Paula Coyne, Susan Kauck, Marilyn McWilliams, Sally Cook. Haunani Wallace, Steve Smith, Denise Munger, Mike Young, Eric Winters and Jan Baldwin.

#### **MINUTES**

Doug moved that the minutes of the August 18, 2021 meeting be approved with the correction that the vote on the moratorium of gifts of trees and shrubs was unanimous. Susan seconded.

#### **CLEAN UP ROCKPORT**

Marci and Maggie asked that our committee once again clean up the village between late September and the first week of October. We all agreed to help. Pick up supplies at Haunani's house; Mike will provide safety vests. Let Haunani know what route you plan to do.

#### **GIFT TO TOWN**

Doug suggested we consider looking for benefactors for park maintenance. Our volunteer staff has done a lot of the work and it might be nice to get professional help to keep things looking nice. Tom Jackson did an estimate for Memorial Park for winterizing in the fall, spring clean up and occasional summer work. Doug offered to pay for these services for one year. Perhaps other citizens or nearby businesses could "adopt a park." There could possibly be a plaque recognizing the donor. Sally asked if the donation would be tax deductible. Paula offered to research that and also to develop a gift policy, Denise will assist her. Steve suggested that Tom Jackson could go to the parks and provide rough budget of landscaping costs.

#### **REVIEW SWOT ANALYSIS**

1. Mary Lea Park: Denise said that because the park is very steep terracing would be a big improvement. Stewart Smith owns area at bottom of the park where he would like covered parking. The "roof" of the parking would be the start of flat grassy terraced levels in the park. Landscaper Asa Peats has already done a concept design and perhaps he could collaborate with Stewart Smith. The committee would like to improve shrubs in the park. Marilyn suggested a hand rail for safety and for the disabled.
2. Walker Park: Mike said it is not handicapped accessible. Next year we could budget for that. The blue sign and plaque are ready for installation within 2 weeks. Paula suggested the removal of the orange warning sign. Town Manager Jon Duke would like to replace the old merry-go-round, approximately \$8,000. The current base will be removed. We would like to have several benches closer to the water and three near the playground. Susan asked that benches in all the parks be consistent. We will budget for less expensive ones, perhaps at a cost of \$1,200 each. Is there a plan for dealing with old memorial benches that need replacing?
3. Goodridge Park: Agreement that this park needs more colorful flowers/shrubs. We will consider this over the winter. Perhaps add two small bistro tables and several benches on higher level. Re trash removal...local businesses need to attend to that. DPW will top the fragile birches. Signs re "drug free zone" in parks are no doubt a federal law.

### **UPDATE ON DPW**

Many DPW issues were discussed during our SWOT segment above. Jon Duke is resolving the issue of the memorial bench which Jean Forest decided not to donate to the town. Mike is working on a plan for maintaining the high sidewalk, but he is short staffed so it's still a work in progress. Farley will quote a price to improve high sidewalk. Haunani expressed concern for weeds in sidewalks. Mike reported that carry in/carry out policy for trash is working well.

### **BUDGET/5 YEAR PLAN**

We had preliminary discussion on the budget. Committee members are encouraged to attend the town's Budget Committee meeting for input. Continue to review budget and 5 year plan for future discussions.

### **ENDING COMMENTS**

Some of the agenda items were tabled until our October meeting. Haunani said we have a quorum of our committee members to attend the town's Public Hearing on Sept. 27, 2021 at 6:30. This concerns approval of a remote participation policy which all town committees must approve. We agreed that the nice Weatherend benches will only be in Memorial Park for now due to insufficient interest in the Legacy Bench program. We will proceed with benches being added to all parks, with consistency within each park. Susan reported that the Parks pamphlets have been a huge success with many businesses asking for more. There will be a second batch printed and distributed.

### **HOMEWORK**

Complete SWOT forms for Harbor Park (including Konenon Park), Cramer Park and Glen Cove. Include suggested maximum number of benches for each park.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 pm.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at 5:00 pm at Rockport Library.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janice Baldwin,