



## Rockport Parks and Beautification Committee

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

### **Minutes October 20, 2021 Rockport Public Library—5:00 PM**

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

#### **MINUTES**

Haunani moved that the minutes of the September 15, 2021 meeting be approved with the correct spelling of Marilyn McWilliams's name. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **AMEND BY-LAWS**

Haunani moved to amend by-laws to approve holding meetings either in person or via electronic means if it is impractical to meet in person. Passed unanimously.

#### **CLEAN-UP ROCKPORT**

Haunani thanked the committee volunteers for a very successful fall cleanup.

#### **LIBRARY BOULDER SLOPE PROJECT**

Doug explained that preliminary plans are underway for the new landscaping where the boulder slope currently is. Terry Dewan and Will Gartley have a plan that pleases the donor. Our committee viewed schematics of the new plan of terraced stonework and plantings. The donor will help choose low maintenance and native plants. Construction could start in March. The committee raised several issues to include: 1) is a railing at the top required, 2) is access to the terraces difficult from a safety and maintenance issue, and 3) there was some displeasure with the look of the middle terrace. Doug will discuss these issues with Terry Dewan, Landscape Architect and Will Gartley.

#### **DPW UPDATES**

Mike said the new Walker Park sign will be installed in the next week or so. The concrete for the old Merry Go Round was removed and now Jon Duke will ask the Select Board to approve the funds for a new Merry Go Round, estimated to be \$8,000 to \$11,000, installed. The funds will come from our budget. Eric feels the rest of the playground equipment is quite good. Bill Frohlich wrote a letter that can be sent to local parents, asking them to make suggestions about equipment. This letter will be put in the Rockport Resource Newsletter. The tidal pool area is on private property and not open to the public.

Denise feels better lighting is needed on the bridge. Denise will check with Jon Duke on status of bridge project which DOT says is slated for next year. Jon will form a "Bridge Committee," with Doug as our representative.

Denise also reported on public signs being consolidated at Rt. 1 and Rt. 90. Mike said that will be done. More directional signs will be installed to direct folks to Walker Park and Harbor Park. Most on our committee felt that we don't need more "Welcome to Rockport" signs on Rt. 1; rather use those funds for benches. The informational brochures have been very popular and we should spread more around, perhaps to more retail businesses. Perhaps create an enlarged informational map to put in the kiosk at Harbor Park.

## **FALL WORK DAYS**

Projects include planting bulbs, pine tree removal in Mary Lea Park, trimming birches in Goodridge Park, planting roses in Goodridge Park, etc. Tom Jackson will take care of Memorial Park. Denise suggested we get a good plan for low maintenance plants at Rt. 1 and Rt. 90. Perhaps Lea Anne could design that plot as well as the plantings at Rt. 1 and Pascal. That is a somewhat dangerous area to work in so perhaps the town could take care of that median strip in the future.

## **BENCHES**

What to do with the benches which the Garden Club installed? What to do with non-conforming and damaged benches? Doug will begin research into this. We need to draft a policy. Perhaps we could move benches around so that they conform better. Re legacy benches...Eric suggested using social media to market them.

## **SWOT ANALYSIS**

Doug, Paula and Denise submitted a survey of three parks, followed by committee discussion.

1. **Marine Park:** Good parking for all, historical interest and great views. The path from Pascal is dangerous and overgrown. Roofs over picnic tables will be replaced, per Mike. One more bench and more picnic tables would be nice, as well as more history signs, a good dumpster for boaters, and ongoing upkeep of lime kilns. Perhaps the mast removal truck, Sky Hook, should move to the commercial side of the harbor to avoid dangerous mixed-use problems.
2. **Cramer Park:** This natural and simple park is easily maintained. Improvements could include better signage, trim trees to open the view, replace the current picnic table and perhaps add another one, fix potholes, fix or remove wooden walkway, and put boulders for safety where cars park. The town is not liable if someone falls off the steep lime trailings. Should there be a sign about the risk?
3. **Glen Cove:** This park which is outside of the village is great for picnics and nice views. Trimming the overgrown vegetation is not easy, per Mike, but perhaps the town could just top the trees annually. Perhaps put posts or boulders in the green space to prevent cars from driving there. Carry in/carry out trash is working well. Perhaps remove grills to discourage trash being put in the grills.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

## **NEXT MEETING**

Several agenda items were tabled until our next meeting. It is scheduled for Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 5:00 PM at the Rockport Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Baldwin