



Rockport Parks and Beautification Committee

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

Minutes November 17, 2021 Rockport Public Library—5:00 PM

In attendance: Doug Cole, Paula Coyne, Marilyn McWilliams, Sally Cook, Denise Munger, Eric Winters, Bill Frohlich and Jan Baldwin

MINUTES

The minutes of the October 20, 2021 were corrected on issues with the slope project. Donors name was removed and she is referred to simply as the donor. Doug will collaborate with Will Gartley, Engineer, and Terry Dewan, Landscape Architect. Tom Farley's name should be removed. Approval of the minutes will be at our December meeting.

SLOPE PROJECT

1. Safety issues: After checking with Scott Bickford of the Town, Dewan and Gartley agreed to have a bench with a back on it. In addition, there will be some cable fencing and new shrubs to provide protection on the top of the slope.
2. The actual rocks to be used throughout the slope will look better than seen in the original rendering we all saw.
3. Maintenance: The donor will take care of it for 2-3 years. Professionals will be used.
4. Bill questioned what plants will be used. This winter our committee will discuss with the donor and landscape architect.
5. Marilyn moved that we accept the general design, taking into account the changes discussed. The motion was unanimously approved.

PARK BENEFACTOR

Doug kicked it off by hiring Tom Jackson for Memorial Park. Sally Cook will take care of Goodridge Park. Please speak up if other committee members know folks who would like to donate to maintenance of a town park.

MARY LEA PARK

Our guest, landscaper Asa Peats, spoke of plans he is discussing with local developers and abutters, Stuart and Tyler Smith. One idea is to increase parking spaces at the lower level by elevating the park about 12 feet where it meets the Smith's border, in order to create underground parking. The top of the elevated parking would be grass. It will be a good place for the music in the park. Improvements to the upper part of the park, to include ADA accessibility, will also be considered in the overall plan. Eric said the Smiths have a vested interest in improving the park as a nice place for their hotel guests to visit. Denise will speak with Jon Duke about our committee's interest in going ahead with the Mary Lea Park project. We should create a subcommittee work group for this project to include a few from our committee, Mike Young, a selectman, etc. Bill Frohlich asked questions about traffic issues. We discussed the town bridge project which is in the works with the DOT. Should there be a bridge task force so the town gets involved with decisions? Perhaps Vicki Doudera could help.

UPDATE ON DPW Tabled until next meeting

HOLIDAY PROJECTS?

Marilyn asked about status of the “big box” at the Post Office. It’s the responsibility of the Garden Club, however they have no interest in maintaining it, and would defer to our committee to plant and care for it.

DAMAGED AND NON-CONFORMING BENCHES

Doug will draft a policy re these benches. Eric read the policy used in Portland, ME which we agreed sounded like a good one.

MARKETING THE LEGACY BENCH PROGRAM

Paula suggested we refer to the recent survey to help decide on number and type of benches for each park. Should we lower the price to get more donors? Should we add a charge for installation? Perhaps we could have a tiered approach with different benches at different prices. Paula will work on a policy.

BUDGET/5 YEAR PLAN Tabled until next meeting. Please be prepared to discuss!

NEW BUSINESS

1. Bill shared his edited letter about kids and our parks. The letter is specifically designed for young families in the area. This letter would be published in the Rockport Resource newsletter and in local newspapers. It asks for input from people on how to best get kids active in the parks, how to improve the parks, etc. There is \$12,000 in a reserve fund for such improvements. Interested folks should respond to our committee or to the town, rather than to Bill directly.
2. Doug felt the Community Garden at the Marge Jones Field was successful, though not full, its first year. He expressed concern that the Recreation Committee may feel the gardens are encroaching on their recreation space. We must coordinate plans with the Rec Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Several agenda items were tabled until our next meeting. It is scheduled for Wednesday, December 15, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. at the Rockport Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Baldwin