



Rockport Parks and Beautification

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

December 9, 2020 - 5:00 P.M. – via ZOOM and Livestream

In attendance: Haunani Wallace, Sally Cook, Jan Baldwin, Denise Munger, Doug Cole, Anna Remsen, Mike Young, Mark Kelley, Bill Frolich, Eric Winters, Lea Anne Dunton, and Sandy Hurlbut.

MINUTES:

Approval of Minutes Sally moved to accept the minutes of the Nov. 11, 2020 meeting as written, Jan seconded, and the motion was approved.

Library Landscaping Update

Denise and Mike reported the following:

- the sod installation is complete
- the retaining wall will come up one more row; completion expected by 12/10
- Limerock St egress: concrete is poured, working on entrance & ADA ramp
- Granite pavers are done
- Installing lights from the old library – the ones Doug Cole saved and rehabbed: Steve sent a reminder to Rhino
- Pathway lighting: Doug is not sure if conduit is run; Mike will follow up on 12/10
- Anderson end of property has been loamed & seeded – not part of the Phi contract
- Space between sod and Beth's property: low spots will hold water so fill, then mulch is recommended (i.e., no grass or plantings)
- Doug recommended that flowers be planted by Wiedeman Memorial Stone- in the late spring
- Mike affirmed that the willow tree on the Davis/Owen's property can be trimmed in the spring so it doesn't encroach on the new park tree

Swingset Possibility for Konenon

Haunani stated that Abbie wants a swingset rather than the entire set of playground equipment. Eric pointed out that swings have to be separate from other playground equipment. Other elements that must be considered are site prep, safety surfacing (rec. white cedar wood chips), and fencing.

The committee then agreed that the first priority for new installation/upgrade to playground equipment should be given to Walker Park. No plans will be made for a playground at Harbor Park in the near term because Walker Park is in such close proximity. The committee felt that the current swingset is probably good for another five years and can be replaced in that time frame. Eric will survey the existing equipment, although he already knew that Walker Park needs to be upgraded to be ADA compliant and needs signage. Mike agreed to take a look at the bench with broken slats and see whether it can be repaired or needs to be replaced. Doug reported that the merry-go-round is still at Rockport Steel and Mark & Mike agreed to follow-up with them.

Sue recommended that signage be installed at Harbor Park directing people to Walker Park. Mike suggested that a pamphlet be developed showing highlights and a map of Rockport such as parks, the library, etc. (Descriptions & mileage from Harbor Park to be included.) Haunani will talk to Abbie about making the pamphlet available at the harbor office. Anna volunteered to work on the pamphlet with Haunani, Sandy, and Sue assisting. Sue volunteered to draft something with bullet points.

Mary Lea Park

Doug reviewed the grant that was given for the park that stated that it would be an amphitheater for events, concerts, etc. He suggested that a 3rd pathway be considered for the lower flat area and Denise said that Legacy Rockport has \$500 available for MLP and could possibly be used to facilitate changes so that the park can be used in this way. Doug will explore this idea further with the idea that perhaps low-key concerts could be held there next summer.

Memorial Tree

Haunani stated that Sarah Rheault would like to purchase a traditional Japanese Maple as a memorial tree, and Haunani asked if the town has a formal policy for this. Anna recommended that the committee develop a master plan that would apply to all town parks. Sue said that she had seen an excellent model of a memorial tree park in Chicago and she will research the details of how that program is run and provide more input for the committee at a future meeting.

Memorial Benches at Harbor Park

Haunani discussed this with Abbie and the recommendation was that the committee ask the Rockport Garden Club if the benches placed by the Garden Club at Harbor Park can be moved to Memorial Park.

The committee discussed establishing a new policy that states how long memorial plaques should remain on the benches and there was no clear decision. The committee agreed to continue evaluating this and to discuss it again at a future meeting.

Budget Items

Due to the time constraints of this meeting, this topic will be discussed at a future meeting.

Updates to 5 year plan

Haunani said that she had received a lot of valuable input from the committee members and that she will edit the original document to include this input and forward to the committee. Eric said that he will also put it in a Google docs format and make it available to the whole group.

The 6:00pm time limit for the meeting was reached and no further items were able to be discussed before adjournment.

Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting will be Wed., January 13, 2021 at 5:00pm

Respectfully submitted

Sandy Hurlbut