

**Rockland Parks Commission Meeting
February 17, 2010 – Rockland City Council Chambers**

Present: Commission Members – Carol Maines, Jean O'Hara
City of Rockland – Rosemary Kulow, City Manager
Greg Blackwell, Public Works Director
Ann Matlack, Assistant to the City Manager
City Council – Brian Harden
Energy Efficiency Committee – Bill Pearce
Rockland Main Street – Lorain Francis, Executive Director
Member of the Public – Susan Beebe; Fred MacDonald, Barley Joe Farms

The Commission meeting began at 2:30 PM. The reason for the meeting was to discuss placing hanging baskets along Main Street. Greg informed the Commission that CMP had agreed to allow baskets to be hung on brackets attached to the decorative streetlights along Main Street. He said the hanging baskets were to weigh no more than 50 pounds saturated. The City would be responsible for purchasing the brackets on which the baskets would be hung. These baskets would be in addition to the black poles along Park Street where flowers are traditionally placed during the summer.

Ann will determine what funding is available to the Commission from the FY 2010 budget.

Carol and Susan will determine the number of baskets to be placed along Main Street.

Fred advised that Barley Joe Farms would need to know what plants would be needed for these baskets since planting for the summer season was beginning, along with the quantities.

It was agreed the baskets would contain the same mix of flowers as in years past since they were specifically chosen for their hardiness.

The Commission will meet again Wednesday, February 24, 2010 at 2:30 PM in the City Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Matlack

**Rockland Parks Commission Meeting
February 24, 2010 – Rockland City Council Chambers**

Present: Commission Members – Carol Maines, Susan Beebe
City of Rockland – Ann Matlack, Assistant to the City Manager
Energy Efficiency Committee – Bill Pearce
Rockland Main Street – Lorain Francis, Executive Director

The Commission meeting began at 2:30 PM.

Ann reported that there was \$917.00 remaining in the FY 2009-10 Parks Commission budget line. There was also funding available in a reserve account.

The Commission discussed the cost of purchasing or leasing the brackets for streetlights along Main Street and determined it to be too high. It was suggested 2 half-baskets be attached on 22 of the lightpoles. Susan volunteered to sketch the design so it could be submitted to CMP for approval.

Lorain suggested the Commission use prison labor to install the baskets. She offered to arrange this work party.

The Commission discussed whether or not it was within their responsibilities to work on tree issues. Ann said she would obtain copies of the City Code so that Commission members would know what their responsibilities were, along with information on the City Forest Committee.

The Commission also discussed the Tree Ordinance in Austin, TX, which is a model used by other cities. They also discussed applying for a Project Canopy grant. Carol said the City had received one of these grants previously and that some of the trees were not planted where originally intended and may still be at the Wastewater Treatment Facility, where they were placed pending future use. It was suggested the City create a tree nursery so that small, less expensive trees could be acquired and then transplanted when they matured to an appropriate size.

Carol mentioned that trees on Oak Street had been planted last fall and that at least one had been damaged by a snow plow over the winter. She mentioned tree grates and cages had been installed along Main Street as part of the recent Streetscapes project. And said she would try to determine the cost of the grates and cages. It was also mentioned that a local blacksmith might be able to produce the grates and cages at a more reasonable cost. Ann would try to determine the name of a local blacksmith and inquire about cost.

The Commission will meet again Wednesday, March 3, 2010 at 2:30 PM in the City Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Matlack

Rockland Parks Commission Meeting
March 3, 2010 – Rockland City Council Chambers

Present: Commission Members – Carol Maines, Susan Beebe
City of Rockland – Ann Matlack, Assistant to the City Manager
Energy Efficiency Committee – Bill Pearce
Rockland Main Street – Lorain Francis, Executive Director

The Commission meeting began at 2:30 PM.

Susan provided the Commission with a sketch of the half-baskets proposed to be placed on streetlights along Main Street. Ann will pass the sketch along to the Public Works Director who will ask CMP if the plan is acceptable.

Carol inquired as to whether or not there were still Project Canopy trees at the Wastewater Treatment Facility. Ann will ask Terry Pinto.

Carol mentioned some trees had been taken down at Butler Square and wanted to know whether or not there were plans to replace them.

Discussion of a City tree nursery was again brought up. It was suggested that the City could dedicate memorial trees from a nursery and place markers at the sites.

Carol mentioned that trees on Elm Street and Oak Street had been planted recently and asked whether these trees were paid for out of the Parks Commission account. Ann responded that \$3,085 from the Parks Commission line had been spent installing the elm trees.

The Commission also asked when the plants are usually put out. Ann will ask the Public Works Director.

The Commission also discussed the locations around the City where gardens were planted by volunteers. Carol explained that several individuals took care of different gardens throughout the City. Lorain said Rockland Main Street would like to take on the responsibility of the 3 Welcome to Rockland signs. She said if the City purchased the plants, RMS would maintain the boxes.

The Commission wanted to know what had been spent over the past several years under the Parks Commission line and whether or not balances were added to the next year's budget. Ann said she had spoken with the Finance Director and that the Parks Commission budget tended to be overspent and that there was no balance forward from last year.

The Commission asked whether the trees on Oak Street had been paid for out of the Parks Commission budget, but the only tree expenditure listed was for elm trees on Elm Street.

The Commission will meet again Wednesday, March 10, 2010 at 2:30 PM in the City Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Matlack

Rockland Parks Commission Meeting
March 10, 2010 – Rockland City Council Chambers

Present: Commission Members – Carol Maines, Susan Beebe
City of Rockland – Rosemary Kulow, City Manager
Ann Matlack, Assistant to the City Manager
Energy Efficiency Committee – Bill Pearce
Rockland Main Street – Lorain Francis, Executive Director
Farnsworth Art Museum – Jeff Charland

The Commission meeting began at 2:30 PM.

Rosemary showed the Commission an article from a public works publication showing how neighborhoods in Boston and other area had dealt with unsightly electrical boxes – turning them into art projects. The Commission was interested in exploring this option.

Lorain said she was working on getting prisoners on work release to hang the flower baskets along Main Street when they were ready.

Carol inquired about creating a tree nursery at the Wastewater Treatment Facility. And said that Terry Pinto told her he had no place to put the trees any longer. It was suggested that the property behind City Hall might be a good location for a tree nursery.

Susan said a report had been prepared several years ago concerning proper maintenance of trees throughout the City. One of the recommendations was to create a Tree Board, which was also a requirement to become a Tree City.

Carol and Susan said that the half-baskets for the Downtown streetlights had been ordered. A total of 44 baskets (2 on each of 22 poles) would be installed.

The Commission will meet again Wednesday, March 24, 2010 at 2:30 PM in the City Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Matlack

Rockland Parks Commission Meeting
March 24, 2010 – Rockland City Council Chambers

Present: Commission Members – Carol Maines, Susan Beebe
City of Rockland – Ann Matlack, Assistant to the City Manager
Energy Efficiency Committee – Bill Pearce
Rockland Main Street – Lorain Francis, Executive Director

The Commission meeting began at 2:30 PM.

The Commission again inquired about when the baskets should be hung on the streetlights – before or after Memorial Day?

It was suggested Peter Lammert, who lives in Thomaston and works for the State Park Service, be invited to address the Commission so that could find out what it might take to start a tree nursery in Rockland.

The Commission reviewed the location of gardens around the City: Carol asked whether the property at the end of Lev Coffin drive was City-owned.

Carol suggested the City look into a dog park similar to the one recently built in Belfast. Several sites have been suggested for Rockland, but no decision has yet been made.

The Commission questioned whether the trees at Sis Reed Park needed to be trimmed this year.

The Commission was advised that “good dirt” for City park projects could be obtained at the Solid Waste Facility.

The Commission will meet again Wednesday, April 7, 2010 at 2:30 PM in the City Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Matlack

**Rockland Parks Commission Meeting
May 5, 2010 – Rockland City Board Room**

Present: Commission Members – Carol Maines, Susan Beebe
City of Rockland – Terry Pinto, Wastewater Treatment Facility Director
Ann Matlack, Assistant to the City Manager
Energy Efficiency Committee – Bill Pearce
Member of the Public – Richard Schneller, Johnson’s Arboriculture-Treekeepers

The Commission meeting began at 5 PM.

The Commission discussed trees species that could be replaced around the City; species that would survive and thrive in a city-street setting. Carol said she spoke with the Public Works Director about replacing trees damaged by City snowplows last winter. It was suggested 2 tulip trees would work well in front of the Post Office since there were no overhead lines to interfere with their growth and that a sugar maple at Custom House Square would also work well. It was recommended that the City purchase trees with at least 2” caliper measurement.

One of the trees planted in Oak Street last fall was damaged by a plow this past winter but it is still surviving. Richard suggested that it be watched and that with a little care it might survive.

The Commission also noted that 2 trees had been damaged alongside the parking lot on Maverick Street, in front of JC Penney. It was suggested a Princeton elm would do well there since, again, there were no overhead lines. Questions were raised about who was responsible for replacing those trees since there is a question about who damaged them – the Kiwanis Club while Christmas trees were delivered or a private snow plow contractor.

It was suggested the Commission find protectors for the trees that had recently been planted on Elm and Oak Streets. Susan said she would approach artists she knew who worked in metal to determine their interest in creating “funky” tree protectors.

Terry explained to the Commission that impervious surfaces such as roads and sidewalks increased the amount of stormwater processed through the Wastewater Treatment Facility. He said 1 inch of rain on a 1,000 square feet area equaled 600 gallons of water. He said having less impervious surface area through the City and more green space, including plants and trees, created less demand on the WWTF which translates to lower costs.

The Commission will meet again Wednesday, May 19, 2010 at 5 PM in the City Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Matlack

**Rockland Parks Commission Meeting
May 19, 2010 – Rockland City Board Room**

Present: Commission Members – Carol Maines, Susan Beebe
City of Rockland – Greg Blackwell, Public Works Director
Ann Matlack, Assistant to the City Manager
Tina Plummer, City of Rockland Intern
Energy Efficiency Committee – Bill Pearce
Rockland Main Street – Lorain Francis

The Commission meeting began at 5 PM.

1. Tree guards – Susan said she had spoken with artists at AIR Friday evening about creating “funky” tree guards. Carol also suggested the City look at using granite as tree guards, similar to those shown in a recent Portland Press Herald article.
2. Trees for Custom House Square – Public Works will be planting the trees. Carol and Susan will check out trees at local nurseries and make recommendations to Public Works.

Carol suggested that only 1 tree was needed on Maverick Street and she would encourage the Kiwanis Club to replace the tree.

3. Flower poles – It was suggested the black metal posts on Main Street, which are used solely to hold flower baskets in the summer, were not needed. Greg will speak with the City Manager about whether or not they should just be removed. The flower poles along Park Street will be filled with flowers again this year. Greg said that traditionally, the baskets were put out before Memorial Day. He will check with Barley Joe to see if the plants were ready and have his crew take care of that. Also, he said Public Works would water the plants along Park and Main Streets.
4. Flower purchases – Carol will contact Barley Joe to determine the cost of this summer’s flowers and the half-baskets to be installed along Main Street. The half-baskets will be paid for out of the Park Commission Reserve account. Ann advised the Commission that there was \$916.68 in the FY 2009-10 budget for the Parks Commission and \$10,800 in the Reserve account.

The Commission would like to purchase plants to be used in gardens throughout the City. It was agreed that Public Works will prepare purchase orders for the plants, to be approved by the City Manager, and authorized Commission members will purchase the plants and return the receipts to City Hall. Lorain told the Commission that if they purchased plants for the 3 “Welcome to Rockland” signs, Rockland Main Street volunteers would see that the signs were spruced up and cared for over the summer.

5. Other – Susan suggested asking Richard Schneller if he was interested in being appointed to the Park Commission. It was also suggested that folks participating in the Master Gardener program be asked to assist with some of the City gardens.

The Commission will meet again Wednesday, May 26, 2010 at 5 PM in the City Hall Board Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Matlack

**Rockland Parks Commission Meeting
October 14, 2010 – Rockland City Board Room**

Present: Commission Members – Susan Beebe, Carol Maines, Sis Reed
City of Rockland – Ann Matlack, Assistant to the City Manager
Energy Efficiency Committee – Bill Pearce

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:05 PM.
2. Review expenditures to date – Ann provided Commission members with expenses to date, along with update on Reserve account balance. Susan advised that she had purchased bulbs and plants and if funds were available, she would like to be reimbursed for these expenses. She will bring receipts to next Commission meeting.
3. Review projects to date.
 - a. Hanging baskets – Greg Blackwell could not attend the meeting, but advised the Commission that hanging baskets would be removed after October 18, when *Jewel of the Sea* cruise ship visits Rockland. Basket liners will be delivered to Barley Joe so they can be reused next year.
 - b. Trees – Greg requested the Commission let him know what species of trees they recommend be planted at Custom House parking lot. Commission recommends no more lindens be planted in Rockland. They suggest elm, oak or tulip poplar trees be planted in this area since there are no overhead wires.

Susan told the Commission she has learned of program to donate trees to the City. She did not have the details at the meeting, but would report at the next meeting. Commission will develop list of locations for these trees, along with species they would like to see planted. Among the locations suggested for street tree plantings are: the grassy areas in front of JC Penney/Hannaford; replace trees in front of Rockbound Computers, Cayouette Flooring, and/or E.L. Spear.

The Commission is also concerned about trees planted on Oak Street last fall and also trees along Pleasant Street at City Hall. The City Arborist will be asked to give his opinion on how best to handle these trees – should they be replaced or is there still life in them and if there is, how best to encourage those trees.

- c. Pocket gardens – Susan told the Commission she had purchased bulbs to be planted in Central Park (near gazebo). Also, told Commission Terry Pinto has thousands of pink bulbs that may be planted around the City.
4. Fall projects – The gazebo at Central Park is in need of painting. The Commission would like to plan a day to plant bulbs, weed hillside plantings and make repairs to the gazebo.

The Commission would also like to develop a nursery for trees on the City Hall property. They would like to take advantage of sales on trees to make purchases now and plan where to plant the trees at a later date.

Greg also advised the Commission that the City had received a Project Canopy grant which in addition to providing street trees for the Streetscapes project, will allow Public Works to hire the City Arborist to trim trees along Main Street.

In response to Greg's inquiry about thinning the cedar trees at the Ocean Street Playground, the Commission recommended the neighbors be asked whether or not thinning the cedars would reduce their privacy before the trees are cut.

5. Winter planning – This was not discussed.
6. Other – Susan advised the Commission that she had learned of an offer to provide tree grates and guards for the trees on Elm Street. Ann suggested Susan ask the donors to make their gracious offer known to the Mayor and City Council since they would have to accept any such donations.

The Commission will meet again Thursday, October 21, 2010 at 4:00 PM in the City Hall Board Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Matlack