

**FRIENDS OF SPY POND PARK
MEETING MINUTES**

June 3, 2018

Present: Karen Grossman, President, Joanie Walls, Treasurer, Lally Stowell, Beautification Committee, Sally Hempstead, Communications & Outreach Committee Co-Chair, Marshall McCloskey, Recording Secretary

Note: To do items, “take aways”, as suggested by Karen are now being highlighted by a number enclosed in a circle.

**INTRODUCTIONS and
PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS**

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm. The first order of business taken up was to review the minutes of the March 26, 2018 meeting, as most of the attendees had not realized there was a link to them (as well as to the meeting agenda) in the email announcing the meeting, rather than being attached to the email as they were previously. ① Marshall will investigate being able to attach documents with MailChimp. The minutes were reviewed and accepted as published.

Those present recalled recent experiences in the park. Karen has been traveling and has not been down to the park as much as usual, but remarked that she has heard several comments about how beautiful the park looks, green and clean, and especially the cobblestones. Joanie has also been traveling, but on the occasions she has been to the park, agrees with the comments above. This was the general consensus of all.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Joanie Walls reported that we are up to date with respect to all annual report filings. She submitted the following report for March 26 through June 3, 2018:

Bank Balance 3/25/2018	\$21,411.93
<u>Income:</u>	
2018 donations/dues (Fall solicitation-5)	\$147.00
2018 donations/dues (May solicitation-46)	\$1,130.00
T-Shirt Sales	\$22.00
Donations Arlington Ice Business Booklet Sales	\$39.00
Miscellaneous Donations	\$15.00
<u>Expenses:</u>	
Printing – Annual Dues solicitation	(\$112.41)
Feast of the East, \$45 booth, \$25 donation	(\$70.00)
Food Link donation	(\$70.00)
Post Office Box Renewal	(\$88.00)
Wheelbarrow tire	(\$12.70)
FSPP Post Office Advance Deposit Account	(\$250.00)
2016 web hosting, database/domain check cashed	(\$792.17)
Postage	(\$3.26)
Annual Report 2015 &2017	(\$70.00)
Bank Service Charges	(\$7.50)

Book Balance \$21,288.89

Bank Balance 6/3/2018 \$21,288.89

Per Karen’s suggestion at the previous meeting that we invest some of the money in the checking account in some interest-bearing account, Joanie Walls made a motion that she be authorized to invest up to \$10,000 from the checking account in a 1-year CD or approximate term thereof ② before the next meeting. This motion was passed unanimously. Karen noted that we may be called upon to match funds of \$5000 that we approved for work to be done in the park. It was deemed that this would present no problem in 2019.

CPA Spy Pond Edge Protection and Erosion Control Project

Karen noted that the CPA Spy Pond Edge Protection and Erosion Control Project is proceeding along, and construction should start somewhere around the middle of next year.

Re: the path through the park, the Conservation Commission has applied for additional funding by way of a Federal grant from the US Forestry Department. It is hoped to use a pervious material for the entire path to improve drainage, and prevent path erosion. Sally noted that the current path before the handicapped path entrance has a large unsafe gully apparently caused by water runoff, and Elaine Crowder reported to Karen after the last workday that the drain near that entrance was completely covered by silt. This was confirmed by Marshall, who worked with Elaine to uncover the drain and surrounding cobblestones, and to try to remedy the step onto the handicapped path by using said silt to form a ramp for it (not likely to last long). This grant would not cover the path at the entrance to the park off Pond Lane, since that area isn’t part of the Edge Protection and Erosion Control Project and will have to be addressed later with additional funding.

Progress on the proposed boat ramp for the Arlington/Belmont Crew Team is awaiting further fund raising. In order to avoid disturbing the endangered Englemann's Sedge (protected species status) the ramp has to be diverted through one of the planting beds. (3) Karen will ask Lela Shepherd if there could be signs posted to protect it where it occurs.



Engelmann's sedge, *Carex engelmannii*

(Not to be confused with Engelmann's sage, *Salvia engelmannii*, endemic to Texas.)

BEAUTIFICATION:

Lally reported that the first Work Day of the year was very successful in getting rid of leaves on Linwood Beach and elsewhere. After our 2nd Work Day, with Curtis Puncher and the boy scouts, the 4 boys will be writing an article with pictures of their activities, which included watering the trees and cleaning the cobblestones. Recalling that the weather on that day was somewhat threatening, we were fortunate to get the participation we did from the scouts, and other walk-on volunteers.

Lally also enlisted and supervised work in SPP with 15 people from Matignon High School on Wednesday, May 30. They did a good job watering the trees, cleaning the cobblestones, following up on leaf cleaning on the beach, and tending to the trenches by the planting bed fences. Hardy School fourth graders will be watering the new trees next week on their field trip to the park.

The storm drains on Pond Lane and Linwood Street have remained clear, but we should continue to monitor them.

Lally has no formal commitments for groups until October. She has contacted the girl scouts and the crew team, but has not heard back from either group. We hope that Charles DeVirgilio from the Arlington Martial Arts School can be counted on to come himself, or with a number of students from the school, to some Work Days. Karen suggested that we might solicit some environmental groups or companies to get involved.

It was noted that Adrienne Landry has written an article on the tree plantings for the newsletter. Calvary Church provided funding for the project, working with John Ellis, chair of the Arlington Tree Committee. John Lapham helped organize the effort and dig the holes for the trees.

Adrienne Landry has also been active in removing knotweed (invasive plant) along the bike path and in the park, at times.

(4) Lally will ask Dick Norcross to attend a meeting on Tuesday, June 12, re: the emerald ash borer. Karen may go or ask Colin Blair to represent FSPP if Dick cannot do so.

WEBSITE and DATABASE: Fred Moses continues to support the FSPP website: website enhancement, maintaining links on the website, and generating interest list queries on the database via an app he created. He advised recently that it would be in our best interest to recruit someone, or perhaps some company, to take over the website responsibility, as well as maintaining the database.

The problem with supporting the current webpage is that it is somewhat home-brewed. Deepak Bidwai, who was partly responsible for the current version, has moved to Canada, and he apparently used some software tools, notwithstanding his assertions to the contrary, that Fred does not have access to. Deepak has not responded to attempts to contact him. Fred did some research into off

the shelf software support and resource management tools for non-profits geared primarily toward fund raising, and noted that the cost is typically between \$200 to \$400/month. He mentioned that there are some Open Source (i.e. free software) possibilities that might be used, but we would need someone who knows something about the internet, and is familiar with html and perhaps other software tools, such as WordPress. (5) He is in the process of talking to vendors, and will report back.

He mentioned that select people can make inquiries to the database using the app., but that it might take an inordinate amount of time to get the answers we want. (e.g. 5 to 10 minutes)

He is currently interviewing companies that might be able to take on the responsibility. The discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

Daniel Jalkut has been doing a good job of maintaining the database and has taken on the responsibility of updating our Mail Chimp mailing list (for Newsletter, notices, etc.) and adding new subscribers identified by our outreach efforts.

OUTREACH: Elaine Crowder, who manages contacts for meeting publicity, activities notification, PSA (Public Service Announcements), stickers, etc., has returned from Lebanon, and has resumed her duties.

Lally and Karen have been working with the Hardy School PTO regarding the 4th grade Spy Pond Park “field trip” science project that will occur on a Wednesday June 6. They report that with 60 students involved, it was necessary to have a school nurse accompany the group. This required moving the time of the event from the morning to 11:45 am to 2:15 pm. Bill Eykamp will provide a science demonstration, along with Cedrine Bell, a science teacher and parent who Stuart Ikeda has gotten involved. The Arlington DPW will make a presentation on sewage and storm water.

Betsy Leondar-Wright has had a good response regarding Fun Day volunteers and expects to be around for most of July and August. She will be using some new materials appropriate for preschoolers provided by Marian Miller, MyRWA’s Education Consultant.

COMMUNICATIONS: Sally Hempstead has set June 8 as the deadline for articles for the Summer 2018 Newsletter. Cathy Garnett is scheduled to meet with Arlington’s Poet Laureate to walk through the Park to explain the various plants in advance of her contributing a poem for the issue. Emily Snyder will write an article about the rain garden and solicit more people to help maintain it. Lally expects that the Matignon students will write an article about their Work Day. Betsy Leondar-Wright has written a delightful article about some of her early days with Spy Pond Park. Karen noted that this is the 20th anniversary of the incorporation of the Friends of Spy Pond Park, and, in fact, the 25th year since the organization started meeting. She has contacted all past presidents, asking them to write about their memories concerning the evolution of the FSPP and the Park.

NEW BUSINESS AND NEXT MEETING:

August 12, 2018, 7 pm at Karen Grossman’s condo, 32 Hamilton Road #402, Arlington, MA

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted 6/10/18,
Marshall McCloskey
Recording Secretary