

The Annual Meeting of Friends of Spy Pond Park
Sunday, December 2, 2012 at 5 pm at the Jefferson Cutter House Arlington, MA

Present were: Karen Grossman, Sally Hempstead, Bev Williams, Sarah Conn, Betty Athanasoulas, Carmen Medeiros, Stroker Rogovin, Michael Rademacher, Betsy Leondar-Wright, Bill Eykamp, Elizabeth Karpati, Jane Whitmore, Doris Birmingham, Marshall McCloskey, Kathy Modigliani, Rafe Ezekiel, Eva Balazs, Jacki Katzman, Colin Blair, Pinal Maniar, Gail McCormick, Myra Schwartz, Fred Moses, and Lally Stowell.

After a delicious potluck supper, President Karen Grossman introduced the speaker, Michael Rademacher, Arlington Department of Public Works Director. Karen gave a short biographical background and thanked Mr. Rademacher for his work and for accompanying her through the park prior to his presentation. (Excerpts of talk in FSPP Winter 2013 Newsletter.)

Karen Grossman distributed agendas, report of the Beautification Committee, minutes of October 7, 2012 FSPP Standing Goals and Goals for 2013, and biographies of officers and standing committee members. After calling the meeting to order, the President asked each person to introduce themselves and state one reason that they have enjoyed the park this year.

MINUTES of the board meeting on October 7, 2012 were approved with the following addition: Under BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE: Last Work Day, October 13 - Second grade Girl Scout Daisies will also volunteer.

2102 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

In addition to the standing accomplishments, the following were successfully completed:

1. Filed a permit for, purchased, and placed a storage shed in the gravel parking lot.
2. Collaborated with Town officials and neighbors to eliminate dumping and partying in the park.
3. Encouraged people to pick up litter in the park.
4. Involved more groups in maintenance while continuing to solicit volunteers whose names are in our database, and others from the community.
5. *Investigated digitizing the memory scrapbook.* (not completed)
6. Filed a permit for installing a portable toilet in Spy Pond Park and achieved its installation.
7. Arranged for the Town to plan an additional tree at the playground.
8. Investigated, with DPW, concrete pavers with holes for a durable, but permeable path surface.
9. Monitored re-grading of the path through the park and solicited solutions for other maintenance issues from DPW.
10. Supported the erection of the mural on the Boys and Girls Club building.

GOALS for 2013 Approved:

1. Seek additional funding sources
2. Maintenance details:
 - plantings and soil enrichment in beds 2 & 3;
 - pursue poison ivy eradication
 - minimize invasive plants
3. Install and monitor maintenance for a portable toilet at Spy Pond Park April 1-October 31
4. Involve more school groups in maintenance
5. Schedule a different group for each Work Day
6. Schedule more nature crafts in the park, when possible
7. Advocate for MyRWA to collect more water quality data for Spy Pond
8. Maintain bulletin boards
9. Plan, mount, and maintain a Robbins Library Display for the month of March

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jane Whitmore presented the financial report.

**Friends of Spy Pond Park
Financial Report 2011 and 2012**

	2011	2012
INCOME		
Dues	\$2800	\$3156
Donations	2313	1410
Donations—festivals	0	0
Grant for festival	0	0
T-Shirt sales	367	310
CD interest	13	1
Sticker sales	0	78
Total Income	\$5493	\$4955
EXPENSE		
T-Shirts	923	0
Supplies	560	1230
Postage	670	865
Printing	1677	1460
Fees	176	343
Services/web hosting	191	59
Grant Event Expenses	0	0
Refreshments	30	0
Stickers	0	130
Total Expense	\$4227	\$4087
Net Income	\$1,266	\$868

Balance Sheet 2011 and 2012

Assets	Begin 2011	End 2011	Begin 2012	End 2012
Checking Acct	9551	10804	10804	11671
CD	3001	3014	3014	3015
Cash Box	50	50	50	50
Total	\$12,602	\$13,868	\$13,868	\$14,736
Net Income		\$1,266		\$868

There were 119 contributors in 2012; donations and dues accounted for 92% of the budget. The Treasurer presented the 2013 proposed budget, noting that the \$1600 for fees included a portable toilet rental for the entire season: \$200 per month for 7 months. (Arlington/Belmont crew team's fees will pay for another one; both to be located on the gravel parking lot. There will be signs near the playground, directing parents to these facilities.)

2013 Proposed Budget PASSED

Expenses	Supplies	Postage	Print	Fees	Services	Tees	Decals
\$4900	\$800	\$900	\$1500	\$1600	\$100	0	0

Karen thanked Jane for her years of service as Treasurer, filing forms yearly and for previous years, and for her persistent work to obtain non-profit, MA tax-exempt status for the organization.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE: Doris Birmingham submitted the following:

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE REPORT, 2012

Committee Members:

Doris Birmingham, Gail McCormick, Lally Stowell, Beverly Williams

General Accomplishments—April through October:

- Trash and plant debris pick-up
- General weeding and invasive species control in the planting beds and on the bike path embankment adjacent to the park
- Light pruning of bushes in planting beds

Special Accomplishments:

- A second tree planted near the playground fence (the first was planted in 2011) with major assistance from the Town Tree Committee, both trees watered and cared for by Wallace Williams
- Acquisition and erection of a tool shed near the boat yard under the leadership of Marshall McCloskey with assistance from Jason Fligg, Erin Berger, and Ed Filisko
- Portable toilet rental (four months) coordinated by Karen Grossman and with major help from member contributions to the annual fund drive. At least twice weekly we'll have to check to assure consistent maintenance of the unit.

Volunteer Efforts:

- In addition to the routine publicity distributed by Jacki Katzman and Karen Grossman, the Beautification Committee made approximately 50 phone calls each month to remind volunteers of the Work Day.
- We had approximately 125 volunteers during the 7-month season, the majority of whom were part of community groups recruited and coordinated by Lally Stowell. Lally also provided an educational component for the three participating Brownie Troops.

Remarks:

Keeping the park clean and as free as possible of invasive plants is a Herculean task. This could not have been accomplished in 2012 without the community groups that joined us on most Work Days. Recruiting, coordinating, and supervising these groups involves considerable time and effort. Meanwhile, member participation was very limited—perhaps 8 or 10 each month out of our sizeable membership. While we will always welcome everyone in the community to help, we need more support from our own members. A suggested goal for FSPP in 2013 is increased participation by members on Work Days.

Karen thanked Doris for all of her years of work in the park. Members were encouraged to recruit friends and neighbors to swell the ranks of volunteers next year. Elizabeth Karpati urged all to learn more about the invasive plants and "declare war on them." The paths now look good, and the Town has an agreement with Heimlich Construction to maintain them. She thanked Marshall McCloskey, Jason Fligg, Erin Berger, and Ed Filisko for erecting the shed, making Work Days easier since tools and materials now stay in the park.

WEBSITE: Thanks to Fred Moses, the website is useful to anyone wishing more information about the park and Work Days. Photos from 2012 are now posted in a gallery on the website.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE: Thanks to Jacki Katzman, Lally Stowell, and Jason Fligg, the FSPP has received good publicity this year. Sally Hempstead has competently chaired our Town Day and Feast of the East outreach, and cooperated with Karen in staffing the Work Day booths. Thanks to Lally Stowell for the beautiful memory scrapbooks, that will be displayed at the library next March. Betsy Leondar-Wright not only coordinated Fun Day in the park, but recruited volunteers who gave many children joy in learning about, and creating nature crafts.

NEWSLETTER: Members voiced their appreciation for the excellent newsletters. Karen thanked Eric Berger for his years of soliciting articles. Sally Hempstead will continue this task. She appealed to members to write articles for the 2013 newsletters.

GRANTS: Karen reported that Charlotte Milan continues to work on creating signage for the rain garden in Spy Pond Park.

SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2013:

President - Karen L. Grossman

General Vice-President - OPEN; Karen encouraged members to volunteer for this post

Recording Secretary - Beverly Williams

Treasurer and Membership Secretary - Marshall McCloskey (merged positions)

Vice-Presidents for Communication & Outreach - Sally Hempstead and Jamie Ciocco

Publicity Chair - Jacki Katzman

Beautification Committee – Betty Athanasoulas, Gail McCormick, Richard Norcross, Lally Stowell, and Bev Williams

Webmaster - Fred Moses

Chair for Park Events - Betsy Leondar-Wright

Fundraising Chair - Jason Fligg

Videographer - Erin Fliggburger

Nomination slate PASSED, with thanks to all, especially Marshall, who assumes the position of Treasurer.

NEXT MEETING: Sunday, February 10, 2013 at 32 Hamilton Road #402

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm. Respectfully submitted, Beverly E. Williams, Recording Secretary