

FRIENDS OF SPY POND PARK MEETING

JANUARY 16, 2006

In attendance: Eric Baatz, Frances Cameron, Karen Grossman, Elizabeth Karpati, Fred Moses, Myra Schwartz.

The minutes of the December meeting were accepted with two corrections: It's Anne Ellinger (not Slepian), and her son is interested in moving the sprinklers if it is a paid summer job (not as a volunteer).

Items below in **boldface** were proposed for continued discussion at the next meeting.

Website report by Eric and Fred:

- They investigated and found that the Town website has a skimpy and out-of-date page on FSPP and improving it would be a low priority for the Town's new webmaster.
- They proposed that FSPP should get a website of its own. The cost would be about \$10-15 monthly, and the domain name "friendsofspypondpark.org" is available. They presented a list of proposed contents and links.
- Karen will check whether other Friends groups have their own websites – we could discuss whether it would make sense to share a site.
- Eric moved, and it was voted, that he and Fred should get the domain name and be charged with developing a concrete proposal for the next meeting.
- Myra suggested that the existing **mission statement** needs revision – we are concerned not only with the park but also with the water body affected by it. Karen will circulate the existing statement.
- We will need a committee for the website. Myra is willing to participate.

Other matters:

- The Treasurer's report was presented by Karen as we have no treasurer since Marilyn's death in December. There is no financial news. Sara Conn has been picking up the mail. We may want to hire a **professional** to do the financial report required for tax purposes (it may cost about \$100).
- We need both a new treasurer and a general vice-president – the latter preferably someone who is willing to serve as president for the next couple of years.
- We need to do **better outreach** – get more people involved. Having a website should help, and the park reopening celebration should present a recruiting opportunity. We will need to stay active and make sure that the park stays in good shape after the renovation. We are still looking for people willing to call with reminders about meetings. We also need e-mail addresses from as many members as possible – this could be requested in the newsletter.
- The Beautification Committee used the money left in the grant, which had to be used by December 2005, to order two signs that say "Spy Pond Park" as our contribution to the renovation and made a presentation to the Park & Rec Commission. It also investigated plastic coyotes which are used in some places to scare away the geese. They cost \$88-150. We may want to get one as a tribute to Marilyn – she would probably like the idea of having a geese deterrent as her legacy.
- Park reopening: The Asian Arts Festival will be the whole month of May and could get involved in the celebration. Kathy Modigliani is the liaison. We need to find out what the Town will do* and have a liaison as well as a celebration committee; Anne Ellinger has volunteered for the latter.
- Newsletter: John Gearin is looking for articles by next week.
- Rt. 2 project: Elizabeth reported that May 13 is the date for the second phase of this project of the Vision 2020 Spy Pond Committee. Last year's work included putting in some stone steps from the path to the shore and removing lots of invasive plants and trash. This year more of the same is planned; next year the committee hopes to add some amenities like native plantings, birdhouses, and a bench or two. Volunteers are welcomed.

Next meeting: 7 p.m. Sunday, February 5, 32 Hamilton Road, Unit 402.

* P.S. According to members of both Park & Rec and the Town Planning Dept., no plans have been made as yet for a park reopening celebration as of mid-January. Both groups have been informed that FSPP wants to participate.