

FRIENDS OF SPY POND PARK MEETING

JUNE 14, 2009

Present: Eric Berger, Doris Birmingham, Karen Grossman, Elizabeth Karpati, Betsy Leondar-Wright.

The **minutes** of the May meeting were accepted with corrections:

- Eric Baatz has not yet applied for tax-exempt status but will do so.
- Clarification: As FSPP is a non-profit, contributions to FSPP are deductible for federal tax purposes, but we have to apply separately for exemption from the state sales tax.
- The federal status was granted provisionally and has to be confirmed.
- Spending on tools was \$155 by Eric Berger and \$26 by Doris.

Treasurer's report: Checking account \$10,373.12, CD \$2014.07.

Park Maintenance, etc.

- DPW won't do anything about erosion until the fall because of staffing problems.
- Joe Connelly has requested money for resurfacing the playground and is awaiting approval by Town Meeting.
- DPW will fix the drinking fountains but is waiting for parts.
- Eric Berger has e-mailed DPW about watering as needed for the trees that were planted last year inside the circular benches but has had no answer yet.
- This morning some sprinklers were operating in the park although there were still puddles on the path from recent rain. DPW will be notified. *[Done.]*
- There is poison ivy in bed #2, just to the right of Linwood Beach. We had permission to use "Rodeo" on the path so we can probably use it in the beds too, but will try pulling the ivy with hands in plastic bags first. We could also try to smother it by covering it with plastic.
- Pruning: Bill Eykamp did some pruning for visibility at Linwood Beach.
- Mulch: Ilse, a friend, and Doris have finished spreading the mulch.
- Weeding: Karen has recruited two teenage boys who work as gardener's helpers. They are to come on June 20. Doris talked to the Council on Aging – another possible source of weeders. Ilse, Doris, and Elizabeth did a walk-through on June 13 to identify weeds to be pulled vs. desirable plants to keep.
- We need a timeline for activities like mulching and weeding.

Other:

- **June 20** will be a work/fun day, with activities for kids by Betsy like puzzles and a scavenger hunt. Karen has sent out an e-mail about it and Doris sent information to the *Advocate*. Betsy has a poster which will be put up around town.
- For the summer **newsletter** 125 copies will be printed by June 20, for distribution at the park and for putting in the library. The fall newsletter should be done in time for Town Day (Sept. 26).
- The new **website** host is cheaper but more restrictive: it will let only Fred into the website. If the host won't change to let more people enter data, Fred will look for yet another host.
- Meanwhile Cynthia Thompson has agreed to serve at least temporarily as **corresponding** (i.e. data-entry) **secretary**.
- **Rowing program:** Park & Rec has talked to the coaches about the complaints about noise and use of gasoline motors. Eric will check on applicable Town bylaws and state laws about Great Ponds. Betsy will check on whether there are electric motors powerful enough for the coaches' boats. If yes, FSPP may want to consider trying to get a bylaw outlawing gasoline motors on Spy Pond.

Next meeting: 7 p.m. Sunday, July 12, 2009, 32 Hamilton Road #402, Arlington, MA.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Karpati