

FRIENDS OF SPY POND PARK MEETING

NOVEMBER 8, 2009

In attendance: Eric Baatz, Karen Grossman, Elizabeth Karpati.

- The **minutes** of the October meeting were accepted with one update: the Library display has been set for March 2010 (not “probably April” as previously stated).
- **Treasurer’s report:** CD = \$2028.80, checking account = 9522.67.

Park maintenance and beautification:

- The **playground** surface has been redone. The cement subsurface and the sand have been removed and replaced with a weed-barrier carpet topped with 12” of pine bark. Rubberized mats have been placed under the swings to prevent wear, and a gravel pit added for digging. The bulletin board that was inside the playground has been moved outside, near the entrance.
- The small **vandalized tree** (a red maple) has not yet been replaced. FSPP could provide a new tree as a memorial to a recently deceased member who has had money donated in his memory.
- Bill Eykamp and Eric Berger have spread **lime** on the lawn near Linwood Beach. We have seed to patch holes in the grass (now or in spring?).
- Eric Berger has cleaned the **storm drain** grates.

Future plans:

- **Annual meeting** Sunday, January 10, 2010 at the Jefferson Cutter House: Potluck at 5 p.m., meeting at 6 p.m. Carol R. Johnson will be the speaker.
- **Winter newsletter** to be published in late January. Deadline for content is January 22, preferably earlier.
- We may need to **change how FSPP operates** in the future. Karen has joined the board of the Mystic River Watershed Association and will not be able to devote as much time to FSPP as in the past. We may need e.g. co-presidents, and/or working more through committees which report by e-mail, rather than monthly meetings for “everybody” which are attended by just a very few regulars. Please give this some thought before the annual meeting.

Spring plans – topic for February meeting:

- Schedule work and activity days for spring-summer 2010.
- Lori Tsuruda’s group, “People Making a Difference,” has about 10 volunteers willing to spread **mulch** on May 17, so that should be one of our work days. But do we need enough mulch to keep 10 people busy? Do we need any more next spring after two years of mulching or can we skip a year? Mulch helps around established plants but mulch that is thick enough keeps everything, desirable plants as well as weeds, about equally from sprouting. Any plans for mulching should be carefully considered before proceeding.
- We need to schedule two **weeding** days before any mulching (i.e. April?). Perhaps we need weeding more than mulching.
- It was noted that the beds near Linwood Beach may be bare because of the Norway maples growing there, which exude something from their roots to keep other plants from sprouting.

Next meeting: Annual Meeting, Sunday, January 10, 2010: potluck at 5 p.m., meeting at 6 p.m. Jefferson Cutter House basement (entrance at rear of building).

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Karpati