

FRIENDS OF SPY POND PARK MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 7, 2010

In attendance: Doris Birmingham, Karen Grossman, Elizabeth Karpati, Betsy Leondar-Wright, Herb Loeffler, Lally Stowell.

The **minutes** of the September meeting were accepted with several corrections.

Treasurer's report:

YTD Revenues: \$3876, YTD Expenses \$3499. Net Gain in 2010: \$377.

Checking Account Balance: \$9899.70 CD Balance: \$2041.50 Note: This 11-month CD matures soon on Nov. 14

Outreach:

- Town Day yielded two pages of sign-ups. The database has grown by about 100 names since the beginning of the summer; we have about 111 dues-paying members.
- The September 11 event in the park, organized by Seth Botos, was a successful fundraiser.
- Gas motors on Spy Pond:
 - Betsy wrote a letter to the *Arlington Advocate* and posted it on the Arlington List. It generated strong comments on both sides of the question as well as in the middle.
 - Some asked whether speeding occurs often enough to be a real problem, e.g. the coaches' boats may go too fast occasionally but not regularly.
 - Betsy suggested a warrant article establishing a no-wake zone within a certain distance from shore. Herb Loeffler noted that the Coast Guard has such a rule and we could copy it. Betsy will tally the responses to her letter and meet with Herb to draft a warrant article for the annual meeting in December.
 - Enforcement would still be a problem, i.e., getting police to catch violators in the act.
- FSPP has been allocated a one-minute time slot for a public service announcement on Arlington cable TV. Betsy has written a script for it that was read and approved by those present.
- Karen has contacted the Arlington Center for the Arts about the possibility of having a Shakespeare in the Park performance at Spy Pond Park. Recently, John Budzna, ACA's Director, wrote a grant request to the Arlington Cultural Council including Spy Pond Park as a location for a Shakespearean performance. He attached a letter Karen wrote in support of this proposal.
- The Arlington Land Trust's request for contributions toward the purchase of Elizabeth Island has been sent to the FSPP e-mail list. Elizabeth reported that at the beginning of the month Arlington Land Trust was within \$20,000 – 30,000 of the amount needed, with some contributions not yet tallied. Deborah Henson-Conant did a concert with part of the proceeds going for Elizabeth Island. Perhaps she could be asked to do the same for Spy Pond Park.

Park Maintenance and Beautification:

- Doris reported that this was a successful season. Jackie and Lally publicized the Work Days and we got help from various groups, e.g., church groups, People Making a Difference, and the Arlington Belmont high school crew team. We did no mulching this year, which may have helped in some places: plants could come up without getting smothered. We will have to decide whether we need to mulch next year. The schedule of Work Days for next year should be set in time to be published in the spring newsletter.
- The ground cloth under the mulch at the playground keeps coming up in pieces in some places, e.g., under the slides. Doris will talk to Joe Connelly at Park & Rec.
- Poison ivy: the old permit for chemical treatment has expired. There was little poison ivy in the planting beds – only three spots, two very small – and one of the men treating the phragmites in the pond on October 13 was kind enough to pull them out without charge. We need to watch these spots in case the poison ivy returns. But, there is a heavy infestation on the slope from the bike path to the Pond Lane parking lot, which prevents us from picking up trash from the slope, and people getting out of their cars could step into it. Doris will alert Joe Connelly.
- The Conservation and the Park & Rec. Commissions have approved the use of StaLok. It can be installed after Nov. 11 and will first be used only at Linwood Circle. The material is heavy and has to be shipped from Arizona, so the Con. Com. recommends trying to find something suitable that is available locally for further repairs.

Other business:

- Our tax-exempt status in Massachusetts is still pending: the state wants a copy of our bylaws, and we can't find one. Karen has asked the federal government for a copy of what was submitted with our federal application.
- Fred recommends against buying accounting software, since the amount of use would not justify the cost.

Next meeting:

Annual Meeting, December 5, 2010, at Jefferson Cutter House: 5 p.m. potluck, 6 p.m. meeting.