

**FRIENDS OF SPY POND PARK  
MEETING MINUTES  
March 26, 2018**

Present: Karen Grossman, President  
Joanie Walls, Treasurer  
Lally Stowell, Beautification Committee  
Sally Hempstead, Communications & Outreach Committee Co-Chair  
Marshall McCloskey, Recording Secretary

**INTRODUCTIONS:** The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm. Those present recalled recent experiences in the park. Karen was in the park for a meeting with the committee investigating soil erosion and edge protection. She has noticed many migrating Merganser ducks. Joanie has been to the park with her husband, enjoying the park and walking their dogs. In response to a query from Karen, she noted that the dogs, unfortunately, are not trained to chase geese and, moreover, are on leash. Lally has been enjoying the view on her trips to the park. Sally and Marshall have been away on trips lately and have been at the park sparingly. Sally did note that access to the shed is difficult since snow plowing of the lot currently stops in line with the concrete barrier protecting the shed. Hopefully, this can be remedied next year by bringing it to the Town's attention.

**PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS:** The minutes of the January 28, 2018 meeting were reviewed. Aside from a couple minor spelling errors, and an extraneous editing residual, the minutes were accepted as transcribed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT & MARCH FINANCES:** Joanie Walls reported that the latest annual report she refiled has apparently been accepted (the \$15 filing fee has been cashed) so we are now up to date in that respect. She will be preparing the Public Charity filing which is due May 15. She submitted the following report for March 26, 2018:

<b>Bank Balance 1/26/2018</b>	<b>\$22,593.68</b>
2018 donations/dues	\$100.00
FSPP Winter/Spring Newsletter	(462.17)
2017 Portable Toilet	(487.48)
25 T-Shirts	(238.10)
Annual Report	(15.00)
Bank Service Charges	(5.00)
Database/Domain	<u>(74.00)</u>
<b>Book Balance</b>	<b>\$21,411.93</b>

**Bank Balance 3/25/2018**      **\$21,874.10**

**Uncashed Checks:** FSPP Winter/Spring 2018 Newsletter \$462.17 (cf. above). Joanie also indicated that there is a previously uncashed check for database management, not the amount above. Fred Moses will look into it.

Karen suggested that we invest some of the money in the checking account in some interest-bearing account, as there do not seem to be any major expenses coming up, if any, until at least 2019 or 2020. The general consensus was that approximately one-half of the balance or ~\$10,000 would be appropriate. Joanie will look into CD's, and Lally's suggestion of Eastern Bank as possibly a good option.

Marshall mentioned that we should be making our Spring solicitation around the beginning of May. Our mailing permit is good until next **November 1<sup>st</sup>**, so the date it actually goes out is somewhat flexible. Pending member mailing address updates to the database, he will advise Karen as to necessary printing requirements.

**CPA Spy Pond Edge Protection and Erosion Control Project**

There will be a 60% Design review of the Spy Pond Shoreline Stabilization Project with funds provided by the CPA (Community Preservation Act) on Wednesday, April 11, 7 pm in the Senior Center's ground floor Mural Room. We can thank Cathy Garnett for writing the proposal and securing the CPA funds (~\$565,000) for this improvement of the park. Lela Shepherd will be assuming further administrative duties with respect to the grant and the project. This design review will be presented by the prospective contractor for comments from the Working Committee and the public at this meeting. It is likely to be the last review before the go-ahead for the project is given. Construction documents and permitting will be carried out this year with construction beginning in April and completed in the Fall, 2019. Karen, who has been our representative at these meetings cannot attend, and hope was expressed that we can enlist Colin Blair to attend and report back the reactions of other Arlington residents to the plan.

Cathy Garnett has written a grant proposal for the Con Comm. requesting \$75,000 from the Department of Forestry for a pervious through the park path restoration project.

A separate issue is the design and construction of a boat ramp and dock for the Arlington/Belmont Crew Team that will be funded via Crew Team fundraising efforts. There are currently two possible locations for 6' wide path leading to this project. One through the grassy area to the left of the boat ramp proceeding through the middle of the adjacent planting bed to the left of the Englemann's Sedge on the shoreline, an endangered species. The other is to the left of the current handicapped ramp, with possible additional handicapped access to the crew launching dock. This issue will also be presented at the April 11 meeting.

Karen noted that our objections to additional proposed walk down paths to the shoreline through the planting beds contributed to their being eliminated from the previous plan, and that issues with Spring Valley Street problems have also been addressed in the current plan.

**BEAUTIFICATION:** Karen and Marshall posted the latest Newsletter (Winter/Spring 2018) on the Spy Pond Park bulletin boards, two (one enclosed) at the bottom of Pond Lane, and the other where the bike path crosses Linwood St.

Lally has secured volunteers for upcoming Work Days and Fun Day Activities. An alumni group from Boston University has signed up for the April 28 Work Day. Cub Scout troop(s?) will be coming in May. Curtis Puncher is the contact for the Cub Scouts. Lally has also contacted the Girl Scouts and expects to hear back from them regarding when they will be available. Charles De Virgilio from the Arlington Martial Arts School can be counted on to come himself, or with a number of students from the school, to a few Work Days. Lally indicated that PMD (People Making a Difference®) will be coming in October. Karen requested that Lally find out the Cub Scouts troop #s so we can give appropriate credit to them in our newsletter. Karen will send Lally the new Arlington/Belmont Crew Team Coach's name and contact information.

Clearing the storm drains of debris, and also of plowed snow as the occasion demands, on Pond Lane and Linwood Street continues to be a concern. Can neighboring citizens be enlisted? Karen will ask Dick Norcross if he will monitor and keep them clear until such time as we identify and obtain additional help for this task.

**WEBSITE:** Fred Moses continues to support the FSPP website: website enhancement, maintaining links on the website, and generating interest list queries on the database. He advises that it would be in our best interest to recruit someone, or perhaps some company, to take over the website responsibility, as well as maintaining the database. This might well incur some costs, as Fred estimates that to achieve our current level of functionality in these regards would represent an investment of perhaps \$10,000 or more. Karen will investigate how MyRWA currently handles these issues.

Daniel Jalkut has been doing a good job of maintaining the database and will also take on the responsibility of updating our Mail Chimp mailing list (for Newsletter, notices, etc.) to add new subscribers identified by our outreach efforts.

**OUTREACH:** Karen has not heard from Elaine Crowder since she went to Lebanon to help with her partner's mother. Elaine manages contacts for meeting publicity, activities notification, PSA (Public Service Announcements), stickers, etc. Bill Eykamp and Lally are our liaisons with the Hardy School PTO regarding the 4<sup>th</sup> grade Spy Pond Park "field trip" science project, that will occur on a Wednesday morning in early June. Betsy Leondar-Wright has provided our Fun Day materials and may be able to help at the event. Karen was contacted by Puddlestompers Nature Exploration re: advertising in the Newsletter. As usual, she informed them of our policy only to support non-profit organizations in this regard. Nevertheless, they expressed an interest in getting involved in Fun Day, which we welcomed.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Sally Hempstead set June 8 as the deadline for articles for the Summer 2018 Newsletter. Cathy Garnett is scheduled to meet with Arlington's Poet Laureate in the Park to explain the various plants in advance of her contributing a poem to the issue. Emily Snyder will write an article about the rain garden and solicit more people to help maintain it. Our official photographer, Ram Subramanian, will hopefully be available to take pictures of the BU volunteers at the April Work Day.

Karen set up a FSPP Mail Chimp account (free) in an effort to overcome the limitations of Google Mail (no more than 500 message recipients in 24 hours, often many bounce backs, putting our gmail account in jeopardy) for sending out the newsletter and other notifications to the FSPP email list (878 recipients). Marshall assisted her in learning how to make use of various Mail Chimp features pertinent to our mailings. We have successfully sent out the last Newsletter, and other notices in the last month. Mail Chimp automatically provides feedback on bad email addresses, people who unsubscribe, people who open (or don't open) the email, people who click on links in the email, etc., providing several advantages over our previous method.

#### **NEW BUSINESS AND NEXT MEETING:**

**June 3, 2018**, Karen Grossman's condo, 32 Hamilton Road #402, Arlington, MA

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted 3/30/18,  
Marshall McCloskey  
Recording Secretary