

FRIENDS OF SPY POND PARK
8/13/2017 Meeting Minutes
32 Hamilton Rd. Unit # 402

Present: Karen Grossman, President; Jill McArthur, new member; Lally Stowell, Beautification Committee; Sally Hempstead, Communications and Outreach Committee Co-Chair; Elaine Crowder, Publicity Chair; Joanie Walls, Treasurer; and Marshall McCloskey, Recording Secretary

Introductions: At 7:10 pm, Karen called the meeting to order and asked those present to introduce themselves and tell of their association with FSPP. Jill moved to Arlington in April by way of London, England, and Portsmouth, NH, has a son who lives in Arlington, and is willing to help with membership and Fun Day duties. Joanie Walls, CPA, is attending her first meeting as Treasurer, and has already imbued the office with an air of professionalism.

Minutes of the June 11, 2017 meeting were reviewed and accepted as presented.

Treasurer:

Friends of Spy Pond Park

Treasurer's Report (June 11 thru August 13, 2017)

Assets:

Citizens Bank Association Checking Account **\$20,946.29**
August 13, 2017

Association Checking Account Activity:

Previous Checking Balance as of	6/11/2017	\$21,322.56
Current Checking Balance as of	8/13/2017	\$20,946.29

Net Decrease in Checking Balance: **\$(376.27)**

Sources of Funds:

Dues	\$575.00
Donations	\$420.00
T-Shirt Proceeds	\$59.00

Total Sources of Funds: **\$1,054.00**

Uses of Funds:

Painting Tot Lot Bench	\$(500.00)
Newsletter/Funday Posters	\$(279.53)
Fixing of Bulletin Board	\$(200.00)
1,000 Membership Applications	\$(139.99)
Arlington Town Day Booth	\$(70.00)
Food Link - Food for 7 Workdays	\$(70.00)
Feast of East Cash	\$(45.00)
Form PC Payment	\$(35.00)
Deluxe Check Fees. Bank fees, etc.	\$(33.56)
Repair Bulletin Board	\$(20.00)
2016 Annual Reporting Filing	\$(15.00)
2015 Annual Reporting Filing	\$(15.00)
Photos	<u>\$(7.19)</u>

Total Uses of Funds: **\$(1,430.27)**

Net Decrease in Funds: **\$(376.27)**

We have not heard back yet (it's perhaps too soon) from Massachusetts re: the status of our recent Annual Report filings. Our latest report was rejected because we (i.e. Marshall – previous Treasurer) did not include a list of Directors on the submission. Re: our future dues solicitations, Daniel Jalkut, the new Membership Secretary, will pick up the returns from our PO box in East Arlington, record check amounts and other data in the membership database, and pass the checks on to the Treasurer for deposit and member acknowledgement. Fred will give Joanie access to the database application. Karen used a feature of the application to look up the figures again for 2017 contributing members to date. There are 86 members who have contributed a total of \$2,490. Dan will also supply Karen with membership email lists as requested.

Website: The database is currently up to date with respect to dues and donations, new members, Work Day contacts, street and email addresses. Deepak Bidwai has posted all recent information to the website. Fred Moses, our Web and IT master, has added many of the features outlined at the June meeting to his application that allow additional access to the database information.

Beautification: Karen notes the following to be included in the minutes: The planting beds look good! Lots of ferns! The goldenrod is blooming and so are the Joe Pye weed and Queen Anne's Lace. There are a few spots with invasive vines, but not as bad as before the last Work Day! The volunteers made a great impact on the quantity of invasive plants and created more space for the ferns. Thanks to all! The trees look pretty good, but some bushes and tree leaves are sparse, perhaps due to last year's drought. The DPW has trimmed the forsythias near the gravel parking lot, but not the ones off Linwood, and Karen will ask Jon Marshall about them. The Town hasn't done anything about the erosion from the vigorous rainfall, so we can talk about if Lally thinks our volunteers can get the sand off the grass near the entrance and back onto the path from the spot where the barrel used to be because the storm drain in the grass is covered up.

The newest willow tree is doing well, as well as the serviceberry bush. Bev and Wally have been watering the serviceberry bushes periodically. Adrienne Landry was given John Ellis' contact information, Arlington Tree Committee Chair, re: planting trees along the embankment. Elaine suggested that low growth aromatic sumac might be a good choice for planting in the beds. It has a 9' root system and is also reputed to be drought resistant. After/During the soil erosion remediation next year by contractors selected by the Town, we will forward her suggestion to the Conservation Commission.

Lally noted that the people from the Zhen Ren Chuan Martial Arts School participated in the July Work Day. There were 5 or 6 adults and 1 or 2 children who did a spectacular job of clearing the area behind the playground. She expects that volunteers from Zhen Ren Chuan will show up at subsequent Work Days this year, but says it is usually a last minute involvement with them, according to Charles Di Virgilio, the owner. We have been averaging around 15 or so volunteer workers per Work Day. Last month we collected 11 large bags of invasive plants, that are incinerated, and 7 or 8 bags of other (compostable) material.

As noted previously, Lally hopes to get volunteers from the Arlington/Belmont Crew Team for August, and People Making a Difference® in October. Spotify has been in touch with Lally with regard to sending volunteers, but as yet no definite commitment has been made.

Lally reported that the April/May Work Days this year were mainly devoted to digging and repairing the trenches around the planting beds, and the June/July Work Days to removing invasive growth from the beds. Usually 4 people, each with knowledge of a particular invasive, work with a group in each of the planting beds. Only one invasive type per bed is targeted, to reduce the chance that non-invasive plants are also removed.

Outreach: Anne Ellinger has graciously volunteered to post FSPP information on the bulletin boards in the Park: one board on the bike path at Linwood St, and two near the Pond Lane entrance to the park. One of them there is an enclosed board that has been troublesome to open and close in the past. However, now, that problem seems to have disappeared. Theories abound, but the favorite one is that the problem may be (or has been) temperature dependent.

Elaine Crowder is continuing to implement publicity for FSPP via the Arlington Advocate, other list serves and media outlets. Lally has placed Fun Day posters advertising Fun Day at 13 various school and other locations throughout Arlington. Karen will get some more posters printed for school and other park postings.

Sally reported that our booth at the Feast of the East was very successful, at least double the participation from the previous year. The time change from 10 am-2 pm rather than 12-4 pm seems to work better for all concerned. We had a lot of sign-ups, sold some t-shirts, a membership, and had some donations.

Karen and Sally placed the display board at the Robbins Library for the month of July. We received a couple of membership applications from it. Lally commented that the board was very colorful. Sally feels that July works better than the month of March for this display.

Betsy Leondar-Wright sent the following update on progress with planning our park activity, FSPP Fun Day:

FUN DAY 2017

Saturday September 9 from 10 am to 1 pm (rain date Sunday 1-4 pm)

Coordination – Betsy Leondar-Wright, betsy@classmatters.org, 781-648-0630

Activities and volunteers:

Boat rides to island tours – Arlington Land Trust volunteers, crew team boat - Jennifer Ryan <jennie.l.ryan@gmail.com>
(Boat ramp, wall along ramp)

Bark boats – Pinal Maniar and Puneet Syal, pinalmaniar@gmail.com, more help would be great _____ (on stone wall above wheelchair ramp)

Crafts with ArtBeat materials – Lally Stowell, Bev Williams, and Sally Hempstead (picnic table closest to the boat ramp)

Bug-catching 10 am-12 pm – Mass Audubon Habitat of Belmont volunteers (not on rain date) –
mmiller@massaudubon.org (separate FSPP card table near built in picnic table)

Nature crowns – Tinkergarten, Lauren Hague (lwhague@gmail.com) – (own table, near rain garden)

Puzzles and scavenger hunts* – Betsy and Colin Blair colinblair@verizon.net, more help would be great, Dick Norcross rich28ruth@aol.com prize distribution (Betsy's table, near fence)

“Colors of the Earth” craft table – Tashi Pique <tspique@gmail.com> (own table, near tot lot)

Water quality monitoring and MyRWA info – Bill Eykamp and Karen Grossman with FSPP outreach info, too (2 card tables & chairs provided by Karen & FSPP)

Face painting – Lisa and Tessa Reynolds (on 4 chairs under tree near tot lot fence)

Toddler table - Judith Berman and Jill McArthur jillmcarthur28@gmail.com (on built-in picnic table farther from Pond Lane)

Program with live music (canopy beyond boat ramp) Mark Sandman and Joe Burns?

- Lokensgard Blechbaser Ensemble Brass Band 10:15ish - 10:45 near activities in the shade
- Bench dedication 10:45 - 11– Karen Grossman will introduce the artist of the newly painted bench located in the tot lot, Anthony Vogel, then invite people to go over to see it.
- The Intuition Quartet - 11:00 -11:30
- Aunt Mimi 11:45 - 12:15
- Joe Burns and the Swing Saw Boys 12:30 - 1:00

Set-up and Clean-up – Marshall, Sally, Betsy and Joanie Walls Joanie.Walls@diversifiedauto.com (more help needed)

Photography – Ram Subramanian, ramkumar@gmail.com and Fred Moses fred@fmoses.com
Release forms to use photos, provided by Karen –Kristy Farrell Sampson kristyfarrell@live.com

Betsy is waiting to hear from Joe Burns from Kickstand Café, open mic for equipment and MC'ing. We may need an extra canopy for the band, or sound equipment people. One is available if needed. Betsy may possibly not be available on Fun Day itself due to family issues. Joanie expressed a willingness to help as needed.

Communications: We may need to have additional newsletters printed for distribution at Fun Day, Town Day, Work Days, and the libraries. Karen will check. Karen will also investigate early next year re: having a Food Truck at 2018's Fun Day. There may have been a possibility this year, but apparently their schedules fill up well in advance.

Sally suggested cutting back on the number of newsletters published each year. It is especially difficult to get meaningful, relevant articles for the Winter issue, as there is very little activity in the Park from the end of Fall to the beginning of Spring. A Spring issue, perhaps published earlier in March, could cover the annual meeting (December) and acknowledge membership contributions, and a Fall issue could cover our activities during most of the relevant part of the year. If necessary, in the interest in keeping the newsletter to a manageable size (at most 8 sheets for posting on the bulletin boards), perhaps publishing a mid-Summer issue. Karen will take this into consideration for a vote at the next meeting.

Sally has set September 15 as the deadline for the Fall 2017 Newsletter articles. Karen solicited an article from her temple at a function in the Park, as well as one from an artist and his father, painting there who she met the same evening.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 pm.

Next Meeting: Sunday, October 1, at 7 pm at Karen Grossman's: 32 Hamilton Rd, Unit 402, Arlington.

Respectfully submitted,
Marshall McCloskey
Recording Secretary