

FSPF ANNUAL MEETING 12-05-10

Jefferson Cutter House – December 5, 2010

Potluck at 5 p.m., Meeting at 6 p.m.

In attendance: Karen Grossman, Stroker Rogovin, Wallace Williams, Elizabeth Karpati, Beverly Williams, Betsy Leondar-Wright, Eric Anderson, Eric Berger, Jane Whitmore, Lally Stowell, Doris Birmingham, Jacki Katzman, Ann LeRoy, Sally Hempstead, Michael McCloskey, Michael Rater, Ellen Robertson, Gail McCormick, Bill Eykamp, and Fred Moses.

Speakers: Richard Duffy, local historian, spoke and presented slides on “Elizabeth Island: Life and Legends”. Ann LeRoy of the Arlington Land Trust gave an update on the successful fundraising to purchase Elizabeth Island. Arlington Land Trust continues to seek contributions to help fund/support stewardship of the island in cooperation with the Audubon Society. The details are related in FSPF’s Winter 2011 newsletter.

President Karen Grossman called the meeting to order and asked each person to say their name and mention one thing they liked about Spy Pond Park.

Minutes of November 7, 2010 were accepted with corrections: Karen talked to the Arlington Center for the Arts regarding Shakespeare in the Park. Recently, John Budzyna, 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. Groups helping with Work Days included People Making a Difference.

Treasurer ‘s annual report by Jane Whitmore reported income of \$4713 and expenses of \$3705. There is also a CD worth \$3000.

- 109 members
- Annual report filing for the state and tax forms – completed
- Karen and Jane are in the process of applying for state sales tax exemption for purchases.
- Two events in the park raised money and resulted in stable financial situation.

Beautification Committee – Doris Birmingham and Gail McCormick

- Bulletin Board at Linwood Street – volunteer is needed to help restore and set it up with Andrew Fischer
- Plantings reasonably healthy; trying to keep invasive plants at bay
- Erosion – Carol R. Johnson Associates has done pro bono work. Original grading was not satisfactory. Linwood St. area to be resurfaced with three tons of StaLok. This material will be considered for the handicapped ramp after re-grading is done in the area nearby. Funding sources to be determined.
- Conservation Commission suggests: Find local erosion controlling products for the path.
- Poison ivy – three areas now cleared, thanks to Elizabeth Karpati and Aquatic Control Technologies
- Eric Berger has been cleaning storm grates to minimize amount of street water going into the park and potentially into the pond
- Members and others who use the park have been keeping it clear of trash
- 16 members have worked three or more Work Days; good group participation in 2010

Website – Fred Moses

- Enhanced photo gallery
- Progress, donations can now be tracked
- Online dues now possible

Outreach

- Karen and Betsy made a lively Public Service Announcement at acmi tv, the local cable station
- Marshall McCloskey has worked on the database and now sends acknowledgments for contributions and memberships by e-mail and street address, when necessary, for tax purposes.
- Two festivals in the park raised money, awareness and sold t-shirts.
- Greg Watt coordinated Town Day booth. Sally Hempstead volunteered for 2011.
- Lally Stowell completed two beautiful memory scrapbooks that she will update on an ongoing basis. After discussion about how they should be used, there was a **vote**: keep the scrapbooks for a while; give them to the Robbins Library sometime in the future.
- Elizabeth Karpati will send out the group e-mails to FSPP database.

Publicity – Jacki Katzman, with the help of Lally Stowell

- Houses of worship notified of Work Days to put in their bulletins: “Weeding Meditation”
- Listed on Boston.com and other websites, including all Arlington list serves
- Newspaper publicity
- High school groups “Eco Warriors” contacted

Motorboat concerns - Betsy Leondar-Wright reported that she and Herb Loeffler researched boat regulations on other lakes and propose the following to be presented to the Town of Arlington:

We, the undersigned registered voters of the Town of Arlington, hereby petition the Board of Selectmen pursuant to MGL 39 10 to insert the following articles into the Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting

- ARTICLE; SPY POND MOTORBOAT BYLAW – To see if the Town will vote to approve a bylaw creating a no-wake zone within 50 feet of any shore, including Elizabeth Island, for motorboats on Spy Pond.
- ARTICLE; SPY POND MOTORBOAT REGULATIONS SIGN – To see if the Town will vote to approve a new sign specifying all motorboat regulations (including a no-wake law if approved, 10 horsepower and 10 mph limit) and boating courtesy expectations for the Spy Pond boat ramp and will vote to appropriate the funds for creating and posting the sign.

Betsy answered questions about no-wake and reported that she has spoken with the coaches of the crew team, who hope to purchase an electric motor boat in the future. The **vote** on the first article: it passed with 3 opposed and 2 abstentions. The **vote** on the second article: it passed unanimously.

Newsletter – Four excellent issues were published in 2010. Look for the winter issue in January. Eric Berger encouraged all to write articles for the newsletter, about the Pond or other lakes. Jamie Ciocco is doing the layout.

Grant applications - Karen appealed for a volunteer grant writer; she wrote the 2010 grants.

- Arlington Cultural Council - \$750 was received for the summer festivals.
- New England Grassroots Environmental Fund – Our proposals have been rejected twice. They are looking for large projects and not ones they feel Town budgets should support.
- New England Foundation for the Arts – Karen worked with Nedret Andre who requested video equipment and art in the park with workshops in the library that was not approved, either.

Goals for 2010 - Members agreed that all goals, except for restoring the bulletin board, have been achieved. Standing goals were established for FSPP that will be published in the winter newsletter. There was discussion about standing goal 14: “Increase use of Pond”. We don’t have control over that; crew team has increased the use. Opening Elizabeth Island to nature study will likely increase Pond use.

Goals for 2011

- Support phragmites control
- Eradicate poison ivy on bike path embankment near the Pond Lane parking lot on Pond side
- Plant new plants in the beds near Linwood Beach and enrich the soil
- Remove dead tree in planting bed and have Town plant two trees to shade the playground
- Encourage Town to install Port-a-Potty at Spy Pond Field
- Add web links to more similar organizations and our PSA
- Contact more high school groups
- Schedule a different group for each Work Day
- Find additional funding sources
- Include more nature crafts throughout the summer
- Receive the requested state sales tax exemption
- Advocate for MyRWA to collect water quality data for Spy Pond
- Submit Warrant articles to Town Meeting for no wake and safe boating signage
- Repair bulletin boards

Karen **thanked** each person who contributed to a successful year. She has received many positive comments about the improvements to the park. Those present **thanked** Karen!

New Business: Resolved, that Friends of Spy Pond supports efforts to mitigate the sand bar near the Route 2 drain. **Passed unanimously.**

2011 Officers Elected

President – Karen Grossman

General Vice-President - Elizabeth Karpati

Treasurer - Jane Whitmore

Recording Secretary - Beverly Williams*

Membership Secretary - Marshall McCloskey*

Vice-Presidents for Communication - Eric Berger & Jamie Ciocco

Co-Chairs for Publicity - Jacki Katzman & Lally Stowell

Co-Chairs for Beautification - Doris Birmingham & Gail McCormick

Webmaster - Fred Moses

Co-Chairs for Park Events - Betsy Leondar-Wright and Kathy Modigliani*

Town Day Coordinator - Sally Hempstead*

Grant Writer/ Fundraiser – Open Volunteer Coordinator – Open *new Board members

Next Meeting - February 6, 2011, 7p.m., 32 Hamilton Road #402, Arlington

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly E. Williams, Secretary

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