

Friends of Spy Pond Park Newsletter

Winter/Spring 2021

2021 FSPP Volunteer Opportunities

We hope you'll consider helping the Friends of Spy Pond Park by assuming one of these positions available to you. We'll offer supportive guidance to take up and complete the rewarding tasks required for each position. We require a commitment of at least one year.

You'll be providing service to the 136 current FSPP contributors and the hundreds of visitors to our park each year. We need immediate assistance, so please spread the word to those you know that we're looking for two people to fill these roles and join our friendly, supportive community. Interested parties, please contact fspp@friendsofspypondpark.org or call Karen L. Grossman, FSPP President, at 781-646-5990 at your earliest convenience.

Treasurer:

Submit Massachusetts Form PC (Public Charity) and Federal form 990 (EZ or N depending) by May 15 of each year for the previous year using a pre-established format,

Renew and pay fee for PO Box at East Arlington PO before May 31 (done automatically),

MA short annual report of officers list due in November. Can do online at https://corp.sec.state.ma.us/corp/loginsystem/login_form.asp?FilingMethod=I

Submit FSPP annual report for year ending 12/31 for annual meeting in following January and projected budget for current year,

Provide interim financial reports at FSPP board meetings every other month,

Obtain dues/contribution checks and slips from Database Manager, make deposits, pay bills, and

Send acknowledgements for the above contributions.

Communications and Outreach Co-Chair:

Attend Town events and festivals, sign people in on Workdays and enlist involved members to help you distribute information at the FSPP booth to familiarize citizens with the Friends of Spy Pond Park and Spy Pond, discuss their needs and benefits with passers-by, sell t-shirts, distribute Spy and Spy Pond stickers and brochures and accept memberships.

Assist in designing a FSPP display board for use at the above events and arrange for displays at the Robbins Library.

Solicit articles for the newsletters 3x/year from our list of knowledgeable and willing friends and neighbors of Spy Pond Park approximately three weeks before the deadline announced at a prior FSPP meeting, send collected information to the President for editing, and distribute and maintain a supply of newsletters at the Arlington library and Historical Society.



PHOTO BY JENNY BARON

People having fun in the outdoors, skating, playing hockey, and ice fishing in a warming hut on frozen Spy Pond in February

What was happening around Spy Pond in the 1600s?

By Betsy Leondar-Wright

When English settlers first arrived in this area in the 1630s, they had to negotiate with local leaders of the Massachuset tribe to get rights to hunt, fish and plant. **Squaw Sachem** was the powerful regional leader who granted deeds for what's now Arlington, including Spy Pond.

After the death of her first husband, Nanepashemet, in 1619, Squaw Sachem (not her name but her title, meaning Woman Leader) took over as ruler of the Pawtucket Confederation of tribes, which had been weakened by a plague and by war with the Abenakis of Maine. She remarried a 'pow wow' (physician or shaman), and they ruled together. Her 3 sons each became sachems of parts of the region.

Squaw Sachem and her family bartered with English settlers, trading land for metal tools, wampum (money made of shells) and coats and other clothing. Jotham Gibbons who bought a large tract of land from Squaw Sachem in 1636; his descendants built on it the oldest building in Arlington, the Fowle-Reed-Wyman House at 64 Old Mystic Street.

In 1644 she ceded power to the English, reserving only fishing and farming rights around her home on the west side of the Mystic Lakes. She lived to be elderly and was buried in Medford.

2021 FSPP Work & Fun Days

By Lally Stowell, Beautification Committee

The FSPP monthly Saturday Work Days begin on May 15th and will continue through October. We encourage all who enjoy Spy Pond Park to come and join our efforts to maintain and preserve this unique spot for the many families and visitors who come from all over throughout the year. We need your help pulling weeds and invasive plants, removing fallen branches, clearing the beaches and playground, and picking up trash. Our Work Days are scheduled for two hours, but any amount of time is greatly appreciated. A lot can be accomplished, even in a short amount of time. This is an opportunity to meet and work side by side with others who love the park and enjoy helping to keep it looking beautiful. It is also an opportunity to learn more about native and invasive plants.

For each monthly Work Day, members of the Beautification Committee will be available to assign tasks, work together with volunteers, answer questions and welcome suggestions. All workers must sign a waiver form (parents must sign for under-18s). We have a limited supply of tools so If you have rakes, gloves and/or clippers, they would be greatly appreciated. Please bring water, too.

Below is a list of Work and Fun Days for 2021. They will be held on the Saturday mornings listed below. The hours in May, June, Sept. and Oct. are 9-11 a.m.; in July and August 8-10 a.m. We encourage you to come as often as possible for whatever length of time you can give. We also hope you will encourage your friends, family, members of your community groups and colleagues at work to participate. High school students can earn community service credits. We look forward to having many eager volunteers work with us this year. For more information, contact Lally Stowell; lallystow@icloud.com.

2021 Work Day Schedule

May 15, 9-11 a.m. (rain date May 16, 1-4 p.m.)

June 12, 9-11 a.m. (rain date June 13, 1-4 p.m.)

July 10, 8-10 a.m. (rain date July 11, 1-4 p.m.)

Aug. 14, 8-10 a.m. (rain date Aug. 15, 1-4 p.m.)

Sept. 11, 9-11 a.m. (rain date Sept.12, 1-4 p.m.)

Oct. 16, 9-11 a.m. (rain date Oct. 17, 1-4 p.m.)

Sept 25 **Fun Day** 10 a.m.-1 p.m. (rain date Sept 26 1-4 p.m.)

Fun Day involves children's activities in Spy Pond Park; It is not a scheduled Work Day

Liability waivers are required for all participants in the above Work and Fun Day activities. If you are working, please download the form from the FSPP website, fill it out and bring it with you. Children below 18 years of age must have parental signature to participate in Spy Pond Park Work & Fun Days.

Tribute to Carol R. Johnson, Landscape Architect

By Karen L. Grossman

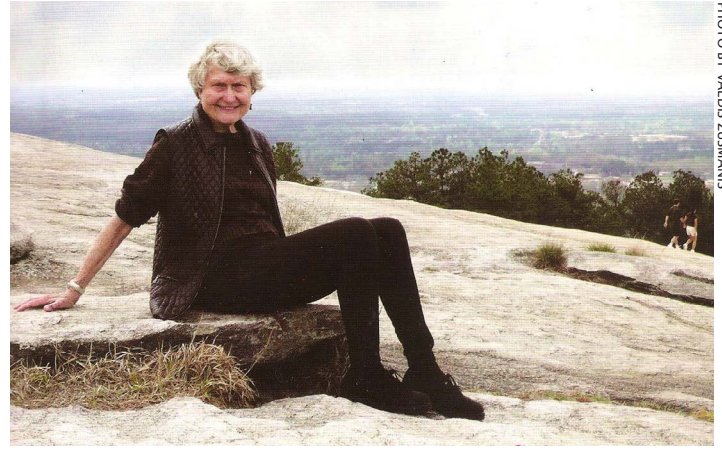


PHOTO BY VALDIS ZUSMANIS

Carol R. Johnson, from her autobiography *A Life in the Landscape*

December 11, the renowned landscape architect, Carol R. Johnson, who designed the 2006 renovation of Spy Pond Park passed away at the age of 91. Recent extensive obituaries can be found in the New York Times: <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/08/arts/design/carol-johnson-dead.html> and the Boston Globe: <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2021/01/26/metro/carol-r-johnson-who-founded-pioneering-women-led-landscape-architecture-firm-dies-91/> brought this to my attention. These tributes to Carol R. Johnson relate what her legacy is with pioneering projects she did, other than our little park in Arlington. We are grateful that the Town of Arlington chose her and her co-workers at Carol R. Johnson & Associates, Inc. to work with us and the Town, creating beautiful designs for Spy Pond Park and for Robbins Farm Park. I visited Carol at her Cambridge home just a few years ago when she was able to chat with me a bit and reminisce fondly of those days. The FSPP acknowledged her dedication to our park at our Annual Meeting in December 2014 via a Good Citizen's Award, recognizing all she had done for Spy Pond Park.

The above listings in the news did not mention her autobiography, *A Life in the Landscape*, published by Daybreak Press in China. She wrote this interesting book in English, also translated into Chinese in the same edition, for the landscape architecture students in China. In 2011 she gifted me a copy of her book and pointed out to me, with pleasure, that Chapter 56 is 3+ pages and 6 photos devoted to "Park Work in Arlington, MA" including our Spy Pond Park! I appreciated today reading again parts of the story of Carol's life's journey, a delightful and informative narrative describing her personal and professional experiences, and reflecting her joyful, engaging personality. Carol's passing is a loss to us all, but the Friends of Spy Pond Park, especially those of us who knew her, will strive to maintain one of her beautiful parks, keeping her legendary legacy in our minds and our hearts.

2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND 2021 GOALS

Accomplishments for 2020 in addition to Some of the Standing Annual Goals:

1. Monitored and influenced, as much as we could, the Conservation Commission efforts re: shoreline rehab, and path improvement in our best interests
2. Monitored the Town's pursuing finances for establishing signage about the soil erosion project and care of the planting beds.
3. Identified and awarded 2 worthy citizens for outstanding service to the FSPP
4. Created Hunts for families and individuals to replace Fun Day activities: an Art Hunt and a History Mysteries Hunt involving the use of QR codes to find the clues and artwork in and near SPP.

We suspended other goals due to Covid-19 restrictions. We conducted modified Work Days in the park maintaining the cobblestones lining the path and grooming general park areas. Additional work in the planting beds was suspended until further notice due to the erosion control shoreline project.

Goals for 2021 in addition to standing goals:

1. Continue to monitor and influence, as much as we can, the Conservation Commission efforts re: shoreline rehab, and path improvement in our best interests
2. Coordinate with Hardy School re: a unit for study of the Spy Pond Park environment and field day in SPP involving parents, the DPW, and Charlotte Milan from Arlington Recycle – this was done in 2018 and will be investigated for 2021.
3. Determine the need for alternatives for handling litter/trash and investigating how other towns do it.
4. Recruit a General Vice-President, Treasurer, and VP for Communications and Outreach.
5. Recruit people for a FSPP Public Art Committee – Mithilesh Sharma has volunteered to be on it and Betsy has some ideas for others.

6. Explore additional art for the park and investigate what is being done in other parks – look into themes with connections to Arlington history and indigenous peoples.
7. Monitor the Town's pursuing finances for establishing signage about the soil erosion project and care of the planting beds.
8. Put up a sign in the rain garden explaining its environmental purpose.
9. Identify and award 1-2 worthy citizens for outstanding service to the FSPP, if possible.

President's Letter

Dear Friends,

Spy Pond Park and Spy Pond were busy in February for people going out onto the frozen Spy Pond. Many removed the accumulated snow and created ice hockey rinks, parents pulled children on sleds, others went cross country skiing, a few erected huts and drilled holes through the ice for fishing hooks, and people walked around while their dogs briskly romped, getting some open-air exercise. Since it has been less frequent that the pond has frozen for so long in recent years, this was a joyful time for all!

The FSPP 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes will be posted on our website in March after they have been approved at the March 14 meeting. We have a small group of volunteers for our first April Work Day and look forward to seeing some of you on the other dates throughout May-October. Check out the schedule and join us, if you can by registering in advance, as required.

I hope you are all continuing to do well as the projections improve for the resolution of the Covid-19 crisis. We also hope for Marshall McCloskey's smooth and speedy recovery from a recent mild stroke. Although it may sometimes be difficult to keep up your spirits during these trying times, I hope that a trip to Spy Pond Park, walking outdoors elsewhere, or travelling virtually online will give you pleasure and sustenance to endure your troubles and be refreshed.

Warm regards,



Karen L. Grossman
President
Friends of Spy Pond Park

January 10, 2021 Annual Meeting Presentation: "Spy Pond Park and Community"

By Emily Sullivan, as reported by Marshall McCloskey

Emily Sullivan, Conservation Agent, Environmental Planner and liaison for the Arlington Conservation Commission, first made a presentation to the FSPP's Annual Meeting on December 2, 2018. At that time, she discussed the imminent start of the Spy Pond Soil Erosion and Conservation Project which began in April 2019 and was finally completed this past November. Emily mentioned that the project was preceded by a few years of design, along with the procurement of funding with many people involved.

The Spy Pond Project goals were to:

- Preserve, stabilize, and strengthen the pond's banks to control erosion
- Protect and enhance wildlife habitat
- Prevent unauthorized paths through the planting beds
- Improve water quality and recreational opportunities and
- Improve stormwater infiltration.

This involved the construction of:

- A porous pathway throughout the park
- A new timber over-look
- A rain garden/vegetated bio-basin and
- New native plantings.

Funding consisted of a total budget of approximately \$700,000 from the following sources:

- Community Preservation Act grant (\$552,900)
- Land and Water Conservation Fund grant (\$40,040)
- Community Development Block grant (\$94,000)
- Judy Record Fund grant (\$10,000) and
- Friends of Spy Pond Park (\$5,000).

There are ongoing provisions for plant maintenance and training. The Conservation Commission submitted a FY2022 CPA application to renovate the North Beach Ramp with the same porous pavement material used to renovate the other pathways through the park. This project will, hopefully, start this Summer or Fall.

Cathy Garnett, Associate Commissioner and recently retired professional landscape architect, is working on a buffer area guidance document for the Arlington Conservation Commission. The guide will instruct property owners along Spy Pond about how to construct a vegetated buffer and use natural methods like coir fascine (an erosion control barrier) to stabilize slopes. At least one resident has already installed coir fascine and others

have asked for details. Cathy is researching permits granted to Spy Pond residents over the past 10 years to prove that plants are serving their intended purpose, and that other, perhaps non-native, plants might also serve the same purpose.

Q & A period that followed:

Michael Ratnor wondered about Massachusetts' policy re: plantings, over how wide an area plants might be drawn from, along with considerations of short and long-term survivability. Cathy Garnett indicated that if plant selection was limited to those found within too small a local area, considered "native" plants, that would severely limit options for the homeowner/gardener. It's an ongoing process to determine the best approach. Michael pointed out that Hemlock trees are apparently dying out in MA and that perhaps sugar maples might suffer the same fate. So, should MA invest in planting sugar maples? Cathy noted that there are more plant pathogens in warmer climates, and that it could be a problem, of course.

Karen asked Emily when the Conservation Commission might be able to provide some guidance on the maintenance of the planting beds and FSPP plans for the upcoming year. Emily said that there is currently funding in the budget for invasive plant management and that, hopefully, by April they will have a contract with a company to provide assistance to the community and to the Friends of Spy Pond Park for our upcoming workdays.

Emily said that the new pervious path has not been vacuumed, yet, but that will be done this spring, and that the path will be resealed prior to its being vacuumed. She noted that the DPW will be responsible for vacuuming the pervious path, as well as other pervious installations, e.g. the Hurd Field parking lot. Different size machines will be required for different applications. The schedule will have to be worked out with DPW. Jean asked Emily about the color of the path since it gets hot. Emily said that the color can't be changed now, although the color of the North Beach ramp path, when reconstructed, could be different. She noted that the path does have a limited lifetime and will have to be re-installed, eventually.

Karen noted that problems with the irrigation system for the park were discovered during the park renovation last year and were addressed and repaired.

Lally requested that the cords and ribbons marking the planting beds from the non-planting beds stay in place. Emily said they would eventually be removed. However, they intend to keep them in place until after the training sessions are completed and that, perhaps, a more permanent solution can be implemented.

Cathy Garnett suggested that a Zoom meeting be set up with Emily and the FSPP in early spring to discuss park maintenance with any interested parties, and to be aware of the responsibilities of the contractor/volunteer workers. Karen agreed.

Editor's note: On behalf of FSPP we thank Emily Sullivan for this informative presentation, her patience in answering attendees' questions at the FSPP 2021 Annual Meeting, and her diligent advocacy on behalf of the FSPP and Spy Pond Park.

PHOTO BY BETTY ATHANASOULAS



Lally Stowell, Beautification Committee, wearing water boots, trimmed bushes from Spy Pond at Linwood Circle in 2015

Citation

For 10 years of dedication to Spy Pond Park in your role as:

Beautification Committee member and leader, meeting with committee members each year to determine Saturday dates for monthly workdays in Spy Pond Park April through October, purchasing necessary equipment and paper bags for park maintenance,

contacting leaders of other groups to assist Friends of Spy Pond Park workers in park beautification, assigning particular dates for them, greatly increasing the number of people involved,

assessing what needs to be done each month in a walk through the park, organizing, directing and joining in with committee members to supervise and work with volunteers carrying out workday tasks,

contacting the DPW to pick up the bagged invasive weeds and natural debris collected for removal each workday,

faithfully attending board meetings monthly or every other month to report on maintenance progress and participate in discussion regarding Friends of Spy Pond Park activities or decisions, and carefully caring for our cherished Friends of Spy Pond Park T-shirts that we sell, bringing them to the park every workday and reporting the inventory at the end of each year so we can determine if we need to purchase more,

the Friends of Spy Pond Park

is proud to present this

Good Citizen Award

to

Lally Stowell

January 10, 2021

Citation

For 10 dedicated years of service, a "Jack of all Trades, Master of all" as:

Membership Secretary, recording contributors' dues and donations in our database, carefully updating and organizing the mailing lists, printing labels and conducting biannual mailings,

Treasurer, depositing countless checks, acknowledging contributions, reimbursing board and committee member expenditures, writing reports concerning our monthly financial status and annual budgets, and filing reports for MA and the IRS,

Recording Secretary, taking notes and creating monthly or every other month meeting in a timely manner with details keeping accurate records of our activities, and

Beautification Committee Member, lifting with sweat labor, carefully placing a heavy concrete block foundation, driving a shed via pickup truck to location and directing a team to erect it for storing FSPP equipment, creating a ramp at the entrance, bringing the many tools to the park for monthly use by our volunteers, setting up the outreach canopy and taking it down, maintaining organization within the shed enabling easy access to everything, including a wheelbarrow, a cart, and a photo board, and maintaining or upgrading the FSPP kiosks and juggling more than one of the pre-mentioned roles,

the Friends of Spy Pond Park

is proud to present this

Good Citizen Award

to

Marshall McCloskey

January 10, 2021



PHOTO BY KAREN L. CROSSMAN

Marshall McCloskey (l), in 2011 worked with Jason and Erin Fliggburger and Andrew Fischer to successfully resurrect the FSPP kiosk located at Linwood St. along the Minuteman Trail

Friends of Spy Pond Park next meeting

on
Zoom
May 2, 2021
at 7:00 p.m.

RSVP (optional) to 781-646-5990
email fspp@friendsofspypondpark.org

Details and login information to be announced via email.

To join Friends of Spy Pond Park...

Send your annual dues (\$15 individual, \$25 household, \$5 low-income) to:
FSPP, P.O. Box 1051, Arlington, MA 02474-0021
For more information, call a Friends officer.

- President: Karen L. Grossman (781) 646-5990
General Vice-President: **Open**
Treasurer: **Open**
Recording Secretary: Marshall McCloskey (617) 548-9877
Membership Secretary: Daniel Jalkut (617) 276-6672
VPs for Communication & Outreach:
Jamie Ciocco jamcio@gmail.com
Open
Outreach Committee: Anne Ellinger (781) 646-1705
Marshall McCloskey (617) 548-9877
Chair for Publicity: Jenny Babon (774) 253-6325
Publicity Committee: **Open**
Beautification Committee:
Adrienne Landry (339) 368-0315
Marshall McCloskey (617) 548-9877
Richard Norcross (781) 641-2404
Lally Stowell (781) 777-2759
Beverly Williams (781) 316-1536
Web Developer: Julie McBride julmcbride@gmail.com
Chair for Outreach/Park Events:
Betsy Leondar-Wright (781) 648-0630
Fundraising Chair: **Open**
Photographers and Videographers:
Laura Homer (617) 953-0743
Mithilesh Sharma (617) 233-9218
Ram Subramanian rarnkumar@gmail.com
Photographer's Assistant: **Open**
Post-processing: Mark Sandman

Newsletter contributions and general comments can be sent to
fspp@friendsofspypondpark.org

Friends of Spy Pond Park • <http://www.friendsofspypondpark.org> • P.O. Box 1051 • Arlington, MA 02474-0021

We recognize those who have made contributions to the FSPP in 2020. This money enables us to pursue our mission of supporting the preservation, enhancement, and enjoyment of Spy Pond Park and Spy Pond as natural and community resources. We extend sincere thanks for the generosity and commitment of the 136 individuals and households involved in this effort.

2020 Donations

\$200-\$249

Marianne Balazs
Adrienne A. Landry
& Robert Jolkovski
Katherine Shields

\$100-\$199

Anonymous
Brad Barber
Lionel Fergus & Gerda Brown
Kate Thompson & Daniel Calano
Elizabeth Fraser
Lisa Fredman
Nathan Fuller
Dr. Norman Garber
Sharon Green
Eliza Hatch and Ian Jessen
Betsy & Gail Leondar-Wright
Kathy and Glenn Murphy
Bea, Arthur, & Francis O'Donovan
Wendy Rundle
Lally Stowell

\$50-\$99

Maura Albert
Mimi & Kevin Barbera
Sue & Henry Bass
Evelyne & Xavier Benveniste
Susanne Schuster & Colin Blair
Robert & Elaine Bowes
Margie Coffin & Chris Brown
Nancy Brown
Beverly & Ralph Cadorette
Janice Clark
Adria Arch & Elliott Eichen
Louise Strayhorn & Andrew Fischer
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Helena S. & Bertrand I. Halperin
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Rob Kanzer
Sam Kesner
Kate Lydecker and Will MacPherson
Matt Mayerchak
Ann LeRoy & Richard McElroy
Paula Minihan

Richard & Ruth Norcross
Martha & Dick Pereli
Cynthia Good and Alan Pratt
Lisa M. & Stephen Reynolds
Victor Rivera
Linda Chase & Roger Dempsey
Arlene Sager
Scott & Heather Smith
Ann Strand
Katharine Wolff

\$26-\$49

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Eliza & Doug Burden
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Joanne Klys
Carmen P. Medeiros
Geraldine Navratil
S. Georgine Pennington
William F Reardon, Jr.
Julie Shapiro
Mithilesh Sharma
Emmi Snyder

\$25

Ann Abbott
Rob Anastasio

Eric Baatz
Jenny Babon
Margaret Barrett
Victor Rivera & Laura W. Bergan
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Rachel Jellinek and Geoffrey Birmingham
Carolyn Boettner
Ed T. Bond
Austin Brown
Dan & Margaret Cianfarini
Jamie Ciocco
Suzanne & Jeff Corbett
Kathryn, Rob, and Jacinta Davey
Kevin Duffy
Bill & Myriel Eykamp
Elsie & Peter Fiore
Charles & Maryanna Foskett
Mary Lee & Dan Goguen
Kym & Dan Goldsmith
Dan Chadwick & Robin Goldstein
Dorothy Duffy Gosline
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Karsten & JoAnne Hartel
Daniel C Jalkut
Heijung Kim & Daniel Klebanov
Anna Kramer
Julie McBride
Toshia McCabe
Mary McCulloch
Joyce McKenzie
Howard Muise
Patty Palanza-Paynter
Anne & Fred Paulsen
Susan & Howard Rashba
Megan & Casey Recupero
Karen Edwards & Tom Roby
Lawrence "Stroker" Rogovin

\$15-\$24

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Sophia Sayigh & J. Richard Sladkey
Susan D Stamps
Alicia Russell & David Stipp
William & Lynn Taber
Dick & Patience Terry
Amy & Jimmy Torres
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Jim Beauchesne
Marlene H Alderman & Eugene Benson
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Joelita Cleveland
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Dana Shkolny
Elizabeth Rocco & Laurence Slotnick
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