

**FRIENDS OF SPY POND PARK
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 2, 2018**

PRELIMINARIES: The evening began with a potluck supper at around 5:15 pm. Thanks to Sally Hempstead, Lally Stowell and Karen Grossman for getting there earlier and setting up the Jefferson Cutter House downstairs meeting room for the affair. People brought an excellent variety of appetizers, main courses, and tasty desserts. There was plenty of food for all, with an opportunity to meet old friends and new people in a welcoming convivial environment.

SPEAKER: At approximately 6 pm, Emily Sullivan, Environmental Planner & Conservation Agent, began her presentation on the “Spy Pond Park Shoreline and Path Construction” project.

Emily assists with the coordination and management of a range of sustainability and environmental efforts in town and works closely with Jon Marshall, the Arlington Director of Parks and Recreation, along with the Conservation Commission. Emily comes to the Town of Arlington following the completion of a Master’s degree in Urban Planning from Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. While at Texas A&M University, she gained experience working on a diverse range of projects related to comprehensive planning including hazard mitigation, urban resiliency, and public health. She received her Bachelor’s degree in Environmental Science from the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts. Emily is an Arlington native and is excited to work with the community she grew up in.

They (Emily and John) have asked for some minor revisions of the current edge protection and erosion control plan as of 12/22, which they expect to be negotiated successfully, and then the plan submitted to contractors for bids. Funding is being supplied by the Arlington Community Preservation Act (CPA) participation and a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The part directed to the Spring Valley St. mitigation is being put off to a later time to reduce the budget. Emily noted that the funding needs to be spent by June 30, 2019, and expects work to start in March or early April. Porous paving the current path through the park from Linwood St to Pond Ln *is* part of the current plan, along with some additional access points from the path to the water.

Some concerns were raised re: the almost certain necessity of closing the park while the work is being done. Every effort should be made to inform the community of the same, including articles in the Arlington Advocate, PSAs (Public Service Announcements) and perhaps signage throughout the town.

It was noted that removing so called “invasive” plants from the shoreline can have deleterious effects on controlling soil erosion if their roots are also removed as well. The same holds for *any* plants that might be removed in the course of construction. Consideration must be given on how and what to replant in any affected areas.

INTRODUCTIONS: Those present were asked to give their name, where they live and what they've enjoyed at the park lately. Briefly:

- Karen Grossman – thought it an amusing scene recently of the geese walking past “Penny the Swan” sculpture at Linwood Circle.
- Dick Norcross – will remain on the Beautification Committee, enjoys seeing people enjoying the park.
- Betsy Leondar-Wright – long-time member, loved getting pictures of the cygnets.
- Bev Williams – loves seeing the children play.
- Lally Stowell – Beautification Committee organizer, takes pride in what’s been accomplished in beautifying the park.
- Jamie Cioccio – lays out the FSPP newsletter, appreciates all the involvement and contributions of the members.
- Stroker Rogovin – is on the Spy Pond Committee of the Vision 20/20 Committee and works mainly on issues related to the South end of the Pond.
- Fred Moses – enjoys photographing people having fun in the park.
- Christie Gilliland – goes to the pond most mornings, especially enjoyed the fall colors.
- Elizabeth Orth – moved recently to Linwood St., loves living close to the water.
- Bill Eykamp – has seen lots of Merganser ducks, eagles and hawks, saw 6 goslings over the summer and thinks they may have been born too late to survive the winter. He enjoys helping with Fun Day and seeing people enjoying it.
- Sally Hempstead– loves the art work in the park, especially the village in the tree near Linwood St.
- Marshall McCloskey – enjoys helping with park Work Days and taking care of routine maintenance of the shed and other issues.
- Jean Fitzmaurice – enjoys the Work Days, and loves seeing people enjoying the park.
- Colin Blair – is not good at growing, but good at chopping. Loves seeing the multigenerational aspects and appeal of the park.

OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS:

At 6:53 pm we reviewed and accepted the October 14, 2018 minutes as presented..Karen noted that they will be published on the FSPP website, as usual.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Joanie Walls prepared an interim report pending final contributions and bills to come in up to December 31 as follows:

Notes: All schedules below are prepared on the cash basis.

- 1) Not included are the 2018 web fees as amount is unknown at this time.
- 2) P.O. Box last collected on 11/23/18.
- 3) Network for Good donations will get funded to checking account on 12/15/18 so they are not shown. I believe we have 2 at this time.
- 4) Unused balance in Post Office Account is \$265. (goes toward future mailings/permits)
- 5) \$125 from Nov. solicitation not deposited in checking account as of this report
- 6) 103 households have contributed a total of \$4,043 from our 2018 solicitations so far, vs. 121 total last year.

Friends of Spy Pond Park - 2018 Financial Report as of December 2, 2018

2018 INCOME		Totals
Dues & Donations - Nov 2017 solicitation received in 2018		\$1,217.00
Dues & Donations – May 2018 solicitation		2,450.00
Dues & Donations – November 2018 solicitation		1,433.00
Other 2018 Donations	\$175.00	
Fun Day	143.00	
Feast of the East	12.00	
Town Day	30.25	
Work Days	29.00	
Total Other Donations		389.25
T Shirt & Sticker Sales		72.00
Donated Booklet Sales		98.00
TOTAL INCOME		\$5,659.25

2018 Expenses	Amount
Donation to Pervious Path Construction	\$5,000.00
Winter Newsletter & Brochures	318.00
Database Admin	74.00
Web Hosting (2016 lost check was reissued)	792.17
Portable Toilet - 2017 & 2018	974.96
Spring Newsletters	462.17
Spring Solicitation Letters	112.41
Prepaid Postage/Mailing Permit Fee & Postage	259.64
Town Day Booth	72.06
Feast of East	70.00
P.O. Box Renewal	88.00
T-Shirts Purchased to sell	238.10
MA Filing & Annual Report Fees	103.50
Food Link – 7 Work Days	70.00
Beautification tools/supplies	141.38
Summer Newsletter	510.33
Fun Day Generator Rental	46.73
Fun Day Supplies	148.73
Fall Solicitation Letters	169.98
NCOA address processing	40.00
Bank Fees/Network for Good Fees	30.00
total newsletters	\$1,290.50
total solicitations	\$542.03
Total Expenses	\$9,722.16
Total Income	5,659.25
Difference (Income - Expenses)	(4,062.91)
Assets	End 2017 End 2018
Cash Box	\$50.00 \$50.00
Checking	\$21,460.06 \$7,272.15
Certificate of Deposit	\$0.00 \$10,000.00
Net Increase in Assets	(\$4,187.91)
Difference	\$125.00

Friends of Spy Pond Park 2019 Budget	
Projected Income	
Membership Dues	\$3,200.00
Donations	1,800.00
Merchandise Sales	100.00
Miscellaneous	100.00
Total Projected Income	\$5,200.00
Projected Expenses	
Portable Toilet	\$500.00
Beautification Committee	600.00
Solicitations	600.00
Newsletters	1,300.00
Website	3,000.00
Misc (Web, fees, supplies)	500.00
Total Projected Expenses	\$6,500.00

Joanie will issue a final report for the end of January board meeting. Karen noted that without the \$5000 donation for the pervious path construction, our (interim) assets would have increased by about \$800. The potential \$3000 item for website support will be further evaluated, re: copying the database to another platform, and alternatives for website maintenance at perhaps a lower level of service. Marshall McCloskey will do some research in this area.

BEAUTIFICATION:

Under Lally Stowell's stewardship, FSPP had a very successful year of park maintenance and beautification. Lally managed to secure at least 9 different groups to volunteer over our 7 monthly workdays from April through October, some of which came multiple times. These included 2 boy scout troops, People Making a Difference, Zhen Ren Chuan Martial Arts School of Arlington, the Arlington High Girls Swim team, Matignon High School, and Betty Athanasoulas with BU Global Day of Service alumni among them. Rich Norcross worked very effectively to develop and maintain clear water views for the enjoyment of park visitors. Since the Work Days, Lally herself has been busy removing mildew from the walls of the maintenance shed in the Arlington/Belmont crew lot!! Emily Snyder and Anne Ellinger continue to maintain the rain garden previously attended by the Garden Club.

WEBSITE:

Fred Moses continues to attend to the enhancement of the database query application to generate interest lists, and updating information on the FSPP website. As mentioned above, Fred sees the need for alternative support in this area. Daniel Jalkut continues maintaining the membership database and Mailchimp lists for email generation, dues/donation acknowledgements and publicity outreach.

OUTREACH:

Karen read a proclamation, suitable for framing, presented by the Arlington Board of Selectmen to FSPP, thanking us for our \$5000 donation toward the shoreline stabilization project. It should be noted that the Town itself has appropriated \$646,900 toward this project (that must be spent by June 30, 2019.)

Two citations for service were issued to long-time members Jamie Ciocco and Beverly and Wally Williams for their service to FSPP. Respectively, for Jamie's work in laying out the newsletter for the last ten years, and Bev and Wally's many years of dedication to Spy Pond Park Bev as Recording Secretary for 6 years and newsletter contributor, and both as workers on the Beautification Committee.

Karen uses Mailchimp along with Elaine Crowder's listserve lists to email outreach notices. We will continue to work with the Hardy School and coordinate with the Arlington Elementary School's new "Green Teams" to educate children (and parents) about the park and environmental issues.

Sally Hempstead spearheads our efforts with Town Day, Feast of the East, SPP, and putting up the library display and Lally is maintaining the memory scrapbooks, that were on display at the meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Sally Hempstead set **February 1, 2019** as the deadline for Winter/Spring 2019 Newsletter articles and will make arrangements for a March library display. Karen Grossman indicated that she already has commitments for some newsletter articles.

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS, 2019 BUDGET & GOALS, SLATE OF OFFICERS

Goal Accomplishments in 2018-we applauded our successes and thanked those who lead us in to accomplish all standing goals except for recruiting two new board members (anyone interested should contact fspp@friendsofspypondpark.org) and the following:

1. We supported Laura Kiesel in her efforts to increase awareness of the negative effects of the use of rat poison on the environment and her efforts promoting other methods of controlling rodents that would be effective and would not be harmful to other wildlife.
2. We helped coordinate and participated in a successful Field Day for 60 Hardy School fourth graders in Spy Pond Park early in June.
3. We gave two Good Citizen Awards to Jamie Ciocco and Beverly and Wallace Williams for outstanding, dedicated service to the FSPP.
4. However, we were unable to recruit a General Vice President & Park Activities Co-chair.

Goals for 2019 (in roughly prioritized order)

1. 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 involving parents, the DPW, and Charlotte Milan from Arlington Recycle.
3. Look into alternatives for handling litter/trash, investigate how other towns do it
4. Support efforts to provide environmentally sound rat control measures in Spy Pond Park and Arlington, in general
5. Explore additional art for the park, and investigate what is being done in other parks
6. Recruit a Park Activities Co-chair to work with Betsy Leondar-Wright
7. Recruit a General Vice-President
8. Identify and award 1-2 worthy citizens for outstanding service to the FSPP.

We discussed and approved the 2019 goals above and the Slate of Officers and Committee members for next year:

President – Karen L. Grossman

General Vice-President – Open

Recording Secretary – Marshall McCloskey

Treasurer – Joanie Walls

Membership Secretary – Daniel Jalkut

Vice Presidents for Communication & Outreach – Sally Hempstead & Jamie Ciocco

Members: Anne Ellinger and Marshall McCloskey

Publicity Chair – Elaine Crowder

Beautification Committee -

Sharon Green, Marshall McCloskey, Richard Norcross, Lally Stowell, and Bev and Wally Williams

Webmaster– Fred Moses

Chair for Park Events – Betsy Leondar-Wright and **Co-Chair** Open

Fundraising Chair – Open

Videographer and Photographers – Ram Subramanian and Fred Moses

Photographers' Assistants - Open

FSPP Standing Annual Goals:

1. Increase *active* membership, enlarge the core group of volunteers
2. Maintain the park as needed
3. Have Town Day, EcoFest, & Feast of the East outreach
4. Send bi-monthly meeting announcements & agendas
5. Sell more t-shirts
6. File annual report and PC report to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
7. Have a library display, as permitted
8. Increase awareness of FSPP and park events: hold a successful park activities day for children and families
9. Maintain and update the FSPP database
10. Maintain and update the FSPP website
11. Publish 3-4 FSPP Newsletters
12. Maintain archives of news items on Spy Pond Park (Memory Scrapbooks & Newsletters)
13. Create a scorecard on annual goals
14. Recruit two new board members from a broad range of the membership: see list of Board members on our website

6 OTHER BUSINESS & NEXT MEETING DATE:

If you left a black insulated $\frac{3}{4}$ length jacket at the meeting, please notify us via FSPP FSPP website.

January 27, 2019, 7 PM, 32 Hamilton Rd #402, Arlington, MA

Respectfully submitted,
Marshall McCloskey
Recording Secretary