

**FRIENDS OF SPY POND PARK
MINUTES OF MEETING
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2019**

INTRODUCTIONS: The meeting was convened at 7:09 pm. Those present were encouraged to state their name, where they live and what they've enjoyed at the park lately.

- Karen Grossman, President, very much enjoys seeing the recent changes to the park.
- Lally Stowell, Coordinator of the Beautification Committee, is very pleased with the workday accomplishments this year.
- Sally Hempstead, Outreach and Communications Co-Chair, thought our presence at Arlington Town Day was very successful, and loves the park.
- Marshall McCloskey, FSPP Recording Secretary and Beautification Committee member, is also impressed with the recent changes to the park, especially the new pervious path, and with the work Lally and her volunteers accomplished on the workdays.
- Peter Fuller lives in Belmont and was attending his first FSPP board meeting. He often goes by the park while riding his bike on the bike trail. He attended the April workday, met Karen then and talked to the Friends of Spy Pond Park. He likes the park and would go there with his sisters when he was younger, not so long ago.

JULY 28 MEETING MINUTES ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS:

The minutes of the previous meeting (7/28/2019) were reviewed and approved as presented. A thank you to Karen for her usual review, corrections and additions to the minutes prior to the current meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Joanie Walls dropped off a paper copy earlier, and submitted an up-to-date Report online:

Friends of Spy Pond Park Treasurer's Report Sunday, October 6, 2019	
CD with Accrued Interest	\$ 10,243.15
Checking - Citizens 10/6/19	11,272.77
Total	\$ 21,515.92
Book balance 7/26/19	\$ 10,934.27
2018 Donations/Dues (Fall Solicitation - 5)	-
2019 Donations/Dues (May Solicitation) - 11	420.00
T-Shirt Sales – Work Day	15.00
Cash Donations - Work Day	45.00
Ice Booklet Sales - Town Day	10.00
Cash Donations - Town Day	29.00
T-Shirt Sales - Fun Day - 4	44.00
Cash Donations - Town Day	225.00
Fun Day Generator	(76.50)
Fun Day Supplies & Posters	(288.53)
Portable Toilet	
Data Processing Fee for Mailing	
Year-End Mailing Labels	

Album Pro License for website	
Workday Supplies	(233.29)
2018 Annual Report Fees	-
Fun Day Supplies Expenses	-
Bank Service Charges	(5.00)
Network for Good Fees	
Bank Service Charges	-
Network for Good Fees	
Book Balance -10/6/19	\$ 11,118.95
Bank Balance -10/6/19	\$ 11,272.77
difference	\$ 153.82
<u>Outstanding Checks</u>	
Fun Day Supplies & Posters	(288.53)
Workday Supplies	(233.29)
Deposit in Transit	410.00
	\$ (111.82)

Karen will check on envelope supplies for the Fall solicitation.

BEAUTIFICATION:

Emily Sullivan, Environmental Planner & Conservation Agent for Town of Arlington, sent the following answers in response to Karen's questions regarding the Spy Pond Edge Protection project. These were not actually discussed at the meeting for reasons of time but are included here as pertinent information.

Please see my responses to your questions below, in [blue](#).

- 1) When will the handicapped ramp be done, additional plantings and other work on the grass and completion of the rain garden off Linwood Circle? [The remaining project aspects you listed above, and the overlook, will be complete by the beginning of November 2019.](#)
- 2) What will be done with the storm drains; are there any plans to remedy the blockage problem, yet? [The storm-drain and drainage issues along Linwood Circle were not addressed as part of this project. I will contact the Engineering Division about these issues, though another project would need to be initiated to resolve these issues.](#)
- 3) How long will the barriers be kept up to prevent people from going into the planting beds. [The planting beds will be closed off using erosion controls for the duration of the project, likely through November. Ideally, people will no longer enter the beds except for during FSPP Workdays. The Town does not want people to enter the beds and disrupt the new plantings \(which take a few years to fully establish\) or create more erosion issues.](#)
- 4) Will the ConComm apply for additional funds to do the community education/signage for this project? [The Commission has no plans to apply for funding for community education/signage this year, but I will bring it up at the next Commission meeting to determine its priority and future funding opportunities.](#)
- 5) When will you, Cathy Garnett, the landscaper, Lally and I go through the park to get an explanation of the plantings and their future care. [We will go through the operation and maintenance of the planting beds on 10/22.](#)

In response to an inquiry from Karen, Lally reported on where we have been obtaining volunteers for the recent workdays. She noted that we had 5 people from St John's Church in North Cambridge at the August workday. She gave kudos to Charles DiVirgilio and his martial arts group for the great job they did at the September workday cleaning the cobblestones. At this last workday we also had groups from the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and the Tiger

group, a total of 30 or so helpers. They worked in shifts during the times they were there. In addition, people from the Arlington/Belmont crew team can be counted on, however this year, due to the algae in the pond, they were not as much around, since they practiced on the Mystic Lakes.

Lally mentioned that Jim McSwiggen was at the last workday. Jim is the person who initiated cleaning the grass between the cobblestones and did it on his own for quite a while, then instructed our people how to do it. He happened to be visiting Arlington from Colorado where he moved last year. She had a very enjoyable time with him, and noted he talked her ear off about the park.

There are lots of new plants in the park as a result of the soil erosion and restoration project. We will need to know where and what they are to prevent damage to them. In addition, it was noted that there are also, currently, a lot of invasive plants in the planting beds: false indigo, bittersweet vine, and some Japanese knotweed among them. This will have to be addressed next spring. Note the reference to the park walk-through in Emily's response to Karen above.

Again, of interest in this regard, Adrienne Landry, an active member of FSPP, submitted the following in a letter to Charlotte Milan (DPW) and Emily Sullivan re: invasive plant removal in East Arlington bordering the Park and the bike path. It is included here for informative purposes since it, hopefully, can effect change in invasive growth in the park planting beds.

Weed-Out Wednesdays

I am writing with regard to the Weed-Out Wednesday program we started in September. This is in part a report on the progress we made and a bit of a projection for 2020. We started late in the season in September and worked each Wednesday from 9:00 to approximately 10:30 a.m. The first day was attended by Charlotte and me. Not a very exciting start, but nonetheless, a start. The next week, three new people came on board and one of them, Cheryl Miller, started a Facebook Page, entitled Weed-Out Wednesdays.

So far, there have been six volunteers besides me and Charlotte: Cheryl, Lisa, Elaine, Sophia, Ann, and Laura. We are a small group, but a very interested group and committed to the idea of removing invasive plants. One of them actually took an invasive plant workshop. We reached people through Facebook posts on The Arlington List, my Facebook page, I think, Cheryl Miller's page, Town Day sign up, and through emailing from Friends of Spy Pond Park. There is now a sign on the site behind Walgreens.

Through the Sustainability program in the Arlington Public Schools (APS), headed by Rachel Oliveri, a group of five, sixth graders, the "Gibbs Green Team." met and took out a large multi-flora rose one Wednesday afternoon. According to Rachel, they enjoyed it and have asked to come back. A group of a similar make-up from Calvary Church worked on another multi-flora rose bush as well. We used clippers and gloves, generously loaned from the Friends of Spy Pond Park, to do the work.

Lastly, Freedom Baird, an installation artist with a project on the Bike Path made up, in part, of native flowering plants was taking down the installation. I was asked by Cecily Miller (Arlington Public Art) if someone would like the plants. I said 'yes' and transplanted about 10 of them to the site on the bike path embankment where we planted two trees last year. We may have started late in the year, but in writing this report, it reminds me that we did a lot! I feel good about the progress and look forward to a few more Wednesdays this year. I would like to talk with both of you about 2020. We do need a few of our own supplies, clippers and gloves mainly, and will need to purchase plants to replace the invasive ones we remove. I have found a place in New Hampshire that sells native plant seedlings for reasonable prices: ten for \$15; 25 for \$25; 100 for \$80. May we meet sometime this fall and do planning for next year?

Marshall has since managed to remove the enclosed bulletin board from its steel mounting frame. It does not appear to be possible to repair or replace the water damaged cork boards inside as they appear to be integral part of the bulletin board(s) assembly. He will contact bulletin board suppliers re: replacing the unit.

It was decided to cancel the originally scheduled October 19 workday since access to the planting beds is somewhat restricted, and also in light of all that has been accomplished so far this year. Karen will notify the Publicity Co-Chairs.

Storm drains on Pond Ln. and Linwood St. have been maintained all summer and should be monitored regularly.

Bicyclists, etc. have improvised a path down the grassy slope from the bike path for park access at Linwood Street. The Arlington DPW has put stones and soil around some of the bushes and trees in the park for their protection and blocked the bike path egress down the grassy hill into the park. We want to discourage biking on the pedestrian path through the park.

WEBSITE:

Fred Moses continues to support the website, and the database. He is adding the capability to query the database by interest and involvement at present which should aid in soliciting volunteers for specific tasks. Julie McBride will supply him with the old photo gallery.

OUTREACH:

Jenny Babon submitted the following report:

Over the summer, I have posted status and photo updates and on the FSPP Facebook page about the ongoing erosion prevention project and shared pertinent information from the Town of Arlington Facebook page about the project. I have also advertised this year's Spy Pond Fun Day through Facebook, posting about the program line-up and activities, and photos from the previous year's Fun Day. I also shared videos and photos from Fun Day on the day of. I created an Event Page for Fun Day where we got 30 responses from people who are going to the event and 511 responses saying that they were interested. The published event also reached about **10,700** people on Facebook! I think that posting about the Fun Day on the FSPP Facebook page was an effective way to get the word out about the Fun Day. I have also been posting about the monthly workdays and weed-out Wednesday.

A high school girl on Fun Day volunteered to demonstrate Spy Pond water quality testing. Bill Eykamp, who previously performed this service at Fun Day, commented that she is very capable and does a fantastic job.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Sally has set October 15th as the deadline for the Fall/Winter 2019 Newsletter. The next one will have articles about Fun Day, Town Day, etc... Sally will keep Karen posted re: the need for additional newsletters and literature as required. We have run out of copies of the previous two newsletters, and perhaps should print more newsletter copies in the future for distribution at the library, events, and workdays.

Sally mentioned that we have to apply next year to post our library display the following year. We can only do it every other year now. She suggested April might be a good month to choose.

Betsy Leondar-Wright wrote an article about Fun Day that was published in the Arlington Advocate. Karen wrote a thank you letter to the editor about the same which was also published.

NEW BUSINESS AND NEXT MEETING:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 pm. The next meeting will be our Annual Meeting and Potluck scheduled for: **January 12, 2020, 5 pm** at the Jefferson Cutter house lower level conference room in Arlington Center. (Also it is the home of the Cyrus Dallin Museum.)

The topic "Art in Parks" was suggested as an interesting presentation by a speaker (TBD) at the Annual Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Marshall McCloskey,
Recording Secretary