

**FRIENDS OF SPY POND PARK
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
January 12, 2020**

John Flood, employed by the Town, arrived shortly after 4:30 pm to open the lower level conference room at the Jason Cutter House. Karen Grossman and Marshall McCloskey began to prepare the room for the pot luck supper and the scheduled talk, and others shortly came in to help. A variety of sumptuous dishes appeared for the potluck, and those present began dining at approximately 5:15 pm.

1 SPEAKER: Adria Arch, Arlington Commission on Arts and Culture, “Art in Parks”

At 6 pm, Karen welcomed everyone and introduced our speaker, Adria Arch. Adria lives in Arlington and is also a long-time member of the Friends of Spy Pond Park. Adria has been involved with public art since 2010, is a former education director of the Arlington Center for the Arts (ACA), an art instructor at local art colleges and universities, and is past Co-Chair of the Arlington Commission for Arts and Culture.

Adria is a mixed media artist whose work features strong graphic elements and vivid color. She combines an abiding interest in shape with a fascination in the unpredictable or unexpected sources. She is affiliated with the DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, in Lincoln MA, and has collections at the Boston Public Library, the Library of Congress Collection of Prints, Washington, D.C. and several corporations in the Boston area, with private collections in the US, Germany, and Australia, and has upcoming exhibitions at the Brattleboro Art Museum and Danforth Art Museum in Framingham. Adria has an MFA from the Massachusetts College of Art, a MA from the University of Arizona, and a BFA from Carnegie-Mellon University.

Adria’s very informative talk addressed: what’s possible with regard to public art, what it can do, e.g. create a sense of community, and questions to be considered in implementing it:

- Why do you want public art? (not to be taken aback, but some people do object on the grounds it detracts e.g. from the pure nature experience.)
- Temporary or permanent? (definitely affects the cost)
- Utilitarian (i.e. in the design of benches, etc...)?
- Where should public art be situated?
- What’s our budget?
- Are there grants or other ways to supplement funds?
- What kind of permissions do we need?
- How do we find an artist?
- Who maintains the piece, how often, and who pays for maintenance?

Adria noted that the first public art project she helped implement in Arlington was the mural on the Arlington Boys and Girls Club in 2012, which, in fact, cost \$8000. (It’s no longer there, as it was expected to be temporary.) Since then, there have been a number of other projects, among them-the Penny the Swan sculpture by Kevin Duffy in the park near Linwood St, Art Rocks Menotomy 2014 and Art Rocks Spy Pond 2015, the tree sculptures in Waldo Park 2013, and Colony, the miniature village in the tree along the Minuteman Trail, also near Linwood St. One might remember the large murals on buildings in East Arlington, and “Ripple” where some trees along the Minuteman bike path between Lake St and Mass Ave were clothed with knitted coverings, a collaborative work with 57 contributing knitters. Adria showed examples of public art in other parks, for example, benches, seating facilities, and bike racks.

She closed with information re: the public art process. To begin, permission from the Parks and Recreation Commission is necessary. Cecily Miller, public art curator, can help with this, from figuring out what the group wants, to creating a call for proposals and overseeing. She is available to discuss her fees. Community open forums to hear feedback on thoughts and designs are necessary and helpful.

2 INTRODUCTIONS: Name, where you live and what you've enjoyed at the park lately.

After the talk, and some brief questions for Adria, people around the room introduced themselves.

Adria Arch – is a long time member of the Friends of Spy Pond Park, as well as being tonight's speaker. Has always enjoyed the park.

Jenny Babon – maintains our Facebook page. She takes a lot of pictures of the park. Enjoys all the aspects of the park, but now with a one-year old daughter, finds she is spending a lot more of her time in the playground/tot lot.

Doris Birmingham – (only present for the potluck and talk)

Colin Blair – walked through the park today in a tee shirt. Noted that the park attracts people of all ages, children, parents, grandparents. Finds it a very peaceful place.

Bill Eykamp – especially enjoys Fun Day, seeing people engaged in all the park activities.

Sharon Green – said birds and rabbits in the park are some of her favorite things.

Chikako Goodman – thinks the park and pond are beautiful. She used to weed her own garden, and now enjoys doing the same in the park, lacking her own since moving.

Ted Goodman – likes that the atmosphere of the park provides food for thought and meditation.

Karen Grossman, President – has a beautiful view of the pond from her condo on Hamilton Road. Is very pleased with the new pervious path through the park. Loved seeing all the people enjoying the park today (74°F in mid-January), congregating to watch the sunset this evening near Linwood Beach.

Sally Hempstead – moved here about 10 years ago, settled into an apartment on Mass Ave near Pond Lane, and a few weeks later discovered the pond and the park. Thought it was magnificent, a scenic retreat so close to Boston and where she lived. Saw a notice for the annual meeting, went, and the rest is history.

Julie McBride – helps with the website. She loves living so close to the pond and the park. Finds it a great place to relax after work and other times.

Marshall McCloskey – enjoys contributing to the maintenance of FSPP facilities in the park, e.g. the shed and the bulletin boards, and volunteering as required.

Fred Moses – loves taking photos in the park.

Stroker Rogovin – likes how the park connects people to nature.

Lally Stowell – is happy with all that was accomplished this year on workdays despite the planting beds not being accessible, and especially with the participation of younger kids in lieu of more adults.

Wendy Seltzer – likes all the activities one can participate in.

Mithilesh Sharma – loves walking through the park, especially at sunset, and taking pictures.

Betsy Leondar-Wright – is attached to lots of floral species in the park, especially jewel weed, which is her favorite, and makes efforts to help it flourish.

3 OCTOBER 6 MEETING MINUTES ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS:

After distribution and a brief period of review, the October minutes were accepted as recorded.

4 2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS, 2020 BUDGET & GOALS

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Karen Grossman reported for our Treasurer, Joanie Walls, and gave out paper copies of her FSPP financial report as of December, 31, 2019. A copy is provided as an addendum to these minutes. Highlights include 139 contributors this year vs. 133 last year, an increase in assets of \$3,615.25 over the year, due mainly to lower standard costs (re: reserves from previous years) and mailing fees, interest on our CD, sales of tee shirts, booklets donated by Oakes Plimpton, and forwarding the cost of the portable toilet (\$500) into 2020, since we have not been billed for it by the Town of Arlington, yet. Joanie has kept up with all the required State and Federal filings to maintain our status as a Public Charity (MA sales tax exempt), and IRS form 990N, which is very important.

Karen mentioned that we will have to work with the Conservation Commission re: fixing the handicapped ramp from the new pervious path at North Beach, as this was not included in the recent Conservation Commission's Spy Pond Shoreline Protection and Erosion Control Project. This could involve some expense on our part. And it is also possible that in the long-term a new soft surface in the playground might be required, which would indeed be a considerable expense. Wood chips are apparently no longer in vogue.

Betsy Leondar-Wright made a motion that we amend the budget to allocate \$1000 for 2020 toward a public art initiative. Fred Moses donated his 2019 fees of \$600 for webpage and database updates and maintenance to this initiative on the spot. Betsy's motion was passed unanimously.

BEAUTIFICATION:

Lally mentioned that, because the planting beds were off limits for most of the season, extra attention was paid on the grass side of the decorative, black fence during the workdays last year. Thus, weeding along the fence and the cobblestones has improved the appearance there, a few notches above the usual. Lally will figure out the schedule for workdays in 2020 for posting on the website and in the newsletter. Karen indicated that the Town of Arlington has done a good job pruning trees in the park. Adrienne Landry, with DPW support, organized "Weed-Out Wednesdays", and her group has been very successful in maintaining parts of the bike path between Lake St and Arlington Center. She has notified the Town of remaining bags of weeds along the path that they should pick up and will welcome volunteers next year: [link](#).

The Spy Pond Shoreline Protection and Erosion Control Project is now practically complete. The handicapped overlook still needs to be installed. The coir fascine is installed along the shoreline and the temporary irrigation system will remain for a while until the plants in the beds take root, perhaps until the fall. Additional plants will be planted in the spring. We do not know for sure when we will be able to get into the planting beds again. The Town (Emily Sullivan) still needs to schedule a walk with us through the park with the contractor to identify and design a plan for care of the new plants.

Karen noted that we need to determine how often the new pervious path will be vacuumed. As of now, the Town has contracted for service once a year. Without it, the path will eventually become *impervious*, with accompanying runoff problems.

The current display cork boards (back and front) in the locked, enclosed bulletin board off Pond Lane have unsightly mildew damage. We have tracked down and procured a quote from the original supplier of the displays of \$1,036 to replace the boards and forwarded the quote to the Arlington Recreation Department for consideration regarding payment. We have volunteered to do the work of installing them into the frame ourselves. We are waiting to hear regarding the Town's decision. The Town, in fact, did the original work of purchasing and erecting the steel frame and installing the display boards around 2006 or so along with the park renovation.

WEBSITE:

Fred Moses noted that the website company whose tools he previously used for the FSPP website construction and updates has gone out of business. He has purged the website and database file structures depending on these tools. He recently added new features for querying the database re: people's interests and involvements. Julie McBride will assume responsibility for maintaining the website, working with Fred in the meantime. If anyone notices any problems on the website, please notify Julie. [link](#).

OUTREACH:

Elaine Crowder has resigned her position due to unresolved problems with her listserve accounts and gmail. Her email-marked-as-spam problem began about a year and a half ago following a FSPP emailing and was affecting her ability to reliably contact people from her business account. Jenny Babon has agreed to take over the responsibilities of Publicity Chair, contacting people and organizations with notices of FSPP activities, PSA Public Service Announcements, etc. and will discuss with Elaine what needs to be done.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Sally Hempstead set March 15 as the end date for submitting articles for the Winter/Spring newsletter, however, Karen has subsequently reconsidered that date to have February 15 as the publishing deadline since the annual meeting will be more recent then.

5 SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR NEXT YEAR:

Proposed as follows:

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

Outreach Committee – Anne Ellinger and Marshall McCloskey

Publicity Chair – Jenny Babon, Pinal Maniar flyer design

Beautification Committee -

Marshall McCloskey, Richard Norcross, Lally Stowell, Beverly and Wally Williams

Web Developer- Julie McBride

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

Fundraising Chair – Open

Videographer and Photographers – Ram Subramanian, Mithilesh Sharma, Laura Homer, and Fred Moses

Photographer's Assistant – Puneet Syal, upon his consideration

Post-processing – Mark Sandman

Betsy Leondar-Wright indicated that a Park Events Co-Chair was not needed at this time. It was decided not to elect Puneet Syal to the position of Photographer's Assistant in his absence, notwithstanding his outstanding contributions at the last Fun Day.

The rest of the slate was approved as proposed.

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 FSPP Newsletters
12. Maintain archives of news items on Spy Pond Park (Memory Scrapbooks & Newsletters)
13. Create a scorecard on annual goals, and
14. Recruit two new board members from a broad range of the membership: see attached list of Board members to be posted on our website

Goals for 2020

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 and filed day in SPP involving parents, the DPW, and Charlotte Milan from Arlington Recycle – this was done in 2018 and will be investigated for 2020.
3. Determine the need for alternatives for handling litter/trash and investigating how other towns do it.
4. Recruit a General Vice-President.

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 a sign up in the rain garden explaining its environmental purpose.
9. Identify and award 1-2 worthy citizens for outstanding service to the FSPP.

A motion was made to accept the above goals and was passed unanimously.

6 OTHER BUSINESS & NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next meeting is scheduled for **March 29, 2020, 7 PM, 32 Hamilton Rd #402.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Marshall McCloskey

January 20, 2020

Recording Secretary

(see treasurer's report below)

Friends of Spy Pond Park - 2019 Financial Report as of December 31, 2019

<u>2019 INCOME</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>Totals</u>
<u>Dues & Donations - Nov 2018 solicitation received in 2019</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>\$1,437.70</u>
<u>Dues & Donations – May 2019 solicitation</u>		<u>2,588.00</u>
<u>Dues & Donations – December 2019 solicitation</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,890.00</u>
<u>Other 2019 Donations</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>Fun Day</u>	<u>225.00</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>Feast of the East</u>	<u>33.00</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>Town Day</u>	<u>29.00</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>Work Days</u>	<u>72.00</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>Total Other Donations</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>359.00</u>
<u>Interest Earned on Certificate of Deposit</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>260.12</u>
<u>T Shirt & Sticker Sales</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>152.00</u>
<u>Donated Booklet Sales</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>64.00</u>
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>\$6,750.82</u>

<u>Friends of Spy Pond Park 2020 Budget</u>	
<u>Projected Income</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>Membership Dues</u>	<u>\$3,200.00</u>
<u>Donations</u>	<u>1,800.00</u>
<u>Merchandise Sales</u>	<u>100.00</u>
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	<u>100.00</u>
<u>Total Projected Income</u>	<u>\$5,200.00</u>
<u>Projected Expenses</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>Portable Toilet - 2019 and 2020</u>	<u>\$1,000.00</u>
<u>Beautification Committee</u>	<u>250.00</u>
<u>Fun Day Expenses</u>	<u>350.00</u>
<u>Outreach Booths (Town Day & Feast of East)</u>	<u>150.00</u>
<u>Solicitations</u>	<u>600.00</u>
<u>Newsletters</u>	<u>1,300.00</u>
<u>Website</u>	<u>1,050.00</u>
<u>Misc. (Web, fees, supplies)</u>	<u>500.00</u>
<u>Total Projected Expenses</u>	<u>\$5,200.00</u>

<u>2019 Expenses</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<u>Winter/Spring Newsletter & Brochures</u>	<u>406.61</u>
<u>Spring Solicitation Letters</u>	<u>76.50</u>
<u>Prepaid Postage/Mailing Permit Fee</u>	<u>285.48</u>
<u>Website/domain Name/Licenses</u>	<u>329.00</u>
<u>P.O. Box Renewal</u>	<u>90.00</u>
<u>MA Filing & Annual Report Fees</u>	<u>35.00</u>
<u>Envelopes & Return Envelopes</u>	<u>542.76</u>
<u>Beautification tools/supplies</u>	<u>233.29</u>
<u>Summer Newsletter</u>	<u>191.10</u>
<u>Fun Day Generator Rental</u>	<u>76.50</u>
<u>Fun Day Supplies & Posters</u>	<u>288.53</u>
<u>Fall Solicitation Letters</u>	<u>76.50</u>
<u>Fall/Winter Newsletter</u>	<u>232.10</u>
<u>Annual Meeting Notice</u>	<u>57.28</u>
<u>NCOA address processing</u>	<u>80.00</u>
<u>Misc./Bank Fees/Network for Good Fees</u>	<u>134.60</u>
<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>total newsletters \$887.09</u>	
<u>total solicitations \$438.48</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>\$3,135.25</u>
<u>Total Income</u>	<u>6,750.82</u>
<u>Difference (Income - Expenses)</u>	<u>3,615.57</u>
<u>Assets</u>	<u>End 2018</u>
<u>Cash Box</u>	<u>\$50.00</u>
<u>Checking</u>	<u>\$8,434.65</u>
<u>Certificate of Deposit</u>	<u>\$10,000.00</u>
<u>Net Increase in Assets</u>	<u>\$3,615.57</u>
<u>Difference</u>	<u>-</u>

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

1) Have not received invoice from Town of Arlington for Portable Toilet for 2019 added to 2020 budget.

2) P.O. Box last collected on 12/31/19 included above.

3) Network for Good donations of \$275 less \$13.75 in fees not deposited into account as of this report.

4) Unused balance in Post Office balance is \$265 which goes against future mailings/permits.

5) \$470 from December solicitation not deposited in checking account as of this report.

6) 139 households in FSPP database contributed \$5,916 vs. 133 households contributing \$5,888 last year.