

**FRIENDS OF SPY POND PARK  
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES  
January 21, 2024**

**SPEAKER:** Elaine Crowder, ArMI - “Neighborhood Collaboration for Invasive Removal and Planting Native Plants”

Previously active FSPP member Elaine Crowder established ArMI (“Arlington Massachusetts Invasives”) after learning about invasive species through her work with Adrienne Landry on FSPP’s Stewardship Team (the Beautification Committee at that time). The ArMI group encourages people to recognize and play an active role in eradicating invasive plants in Arlington.

Last year ArMI and Town Environmental Planner/Conservation Agent David Morgan ramped up the Pink Plants Invasive initiative at Robbins Library (details available at:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XUTlyceKXUXZDtE8gDztsiiOkkBMEPFSM2xaoMjQtaQ/edit?usp=sharing>).

ArMI then helped continue to set up signs in three sites (Crusher Lot, Robbins Library, and along the bike path). ArMI volunteers painted invasive plants pink to help distinguish them and accentuate the growth pattern for passers-by. After leaving the paint on for a month, they held a public chat to help familiarize people with the organization’s goals. Next, they aim to expand this education into the neighborhoods of Arlington so that people can become involved at home to help manage their own invasive plant growth. Through this initiative, volunteers who know that they have an invasive plant in their yard can volunteer through ArMI to host a pink plant sign and have the plant painted pink to spread awareness, before eventually removing it from their property.

Elaine presented photos and descriptions of invasive plants that have most frequently crept into residential yards without being recognized, including black swallow-wort, roundleaf (oriental) bittersweet and bittersweet nightshade. Many of these invasive plants are vines. Invasives that have been invited into Arlington properties through landscaping include Japanese barberry and burning bush.

Elaine welcomes those who are interested in participating to take the ArMI survey or to email her at [armi@communication-exchange.com](mailto:armi@communication-exchange.com).

In the Q&A session, Elaine noted that garlic mustard has not been featured in ArMI’s campaign, yet, because most people are already aware of it. Charlotte Milan and green teams in the schools have been involved in pulling it up around town. Mid-to-end of April is the best time of year to pull up garlic mustard. The plants covered by ArMI’s initiative have a longer cycle when they can be pulled and removed.

When discussing how to handle invasive plants growing in condominium or shared property, Elaine acknowledged that it’s not always possible to remove the plant in that type of circumstance, but recommended compromises such as clipping it back to the base or pruning berries to prevent spread, and changing the plant when it comes time to re-consider landscaping plans.

She clarified that the Town of Arlington was primarily involved in establishing the site at the Robbins Library, resulting in around thirty participants and attendees at a session there. ArMI is expanding into personal properties to enable more people to spot invasive plants where they live. They are hoping to expand to three more public sites and three neighborhood sites in the coming growing season.

ArMI’s base campaign is effective because the pink paint is attention-grabbing, with the sign helping to drive the point home. Elaine wondered if FSPP could host an ArMI sign for a portion of the summer near the park. Karen noted that this may be a good fit on the Minuteman Trail embankment adjacent to the park, since ArMI’s work is like our ongoing FSPP revegetation project along the Pond’s shoreline. FSPP will discuss this; perhaps we could post a sign during an upcoming Work Day.

Karen thanked Elaine for her informative presentation and will publicize the links for those who were unable to attend.

- An Arlington MA Invasives 'ArMI' project using iNaturalist captures all invasives observed in Arlington using the phone app. Join this project and learn more about invasives in

Arlington: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/arlington-ma-invasives-armi-army>

- Pink Plant Invasives in Your Neighborhood:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1CMGogHLOtLeOiHzPjqSsynDSldkR3Aa7vPRdIDR09OA/edit?usp=sharing>

**INTRODUCTIONS:** Karen Grossman, Sharon Green, Daniel Jalkut, Jenny Babon, Lally Stowell, Susan Saw, Lori Tsuruda, Megan Chrisman, Elaine Crowder, Bill Eykamp. Betsy Leondar-Wright joined after introductions.

**NOVEMBER 12 MEETING MINUTES ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS:** The meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

**2023 ANNUAL FSP TREASURER'S REPORT, 2024 Budget:**

2023 INCOME	TOTAL
Dues & Donations (Checks) - Solicitations, Fun Day, Town Day & Work Days	\$6,456.96
Dues & Donations – Network for Good (NFG)	\$1,271.40
Plant Grants & Donations	\$477.60
In-kind Donations (40 Ice Business Booklets)	\$200.00
T Shirt Sales - Fun Day, Town Day & Work Days	\$69.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$8,474.96</b>

2023 EXPENSE	TOTAL
Newsletter printing (Winter/Spring, Summer, Fall/Winter 2023)	(1,195.81)
Solicitation letters printing	(\$420.51)
Website / Domain Name / Software License	(\$329.68)
P.O. Box Renewal	(\$148.00)
Postal fees and processing expense	(\$151.00)
Annual compliance filing fees	(\$90.14)
Beautification tools & supplies	(\$297.80)
Work Days & Fun Day Supplies & Posters	(\$306.69)
Annual Meeting Notice	(\$55.54)
Environmental & Plant Management / Park Maintenance Expense	(\$2,691.30)
Certificate of Deposit account opening fees	(38.00)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>(\$5,724.47)</b>
Total newsletters	(\$1,251.35)
Total solicitations	(\$420.51)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$8,474.96</b>
<b>Net Income (Expense)</b>	<b>\$2,750.49</b>

Friends of Spy Pond Park 2024 Budget	
<b>Projected Income</b>	
Dues and donations	\$7,500.00
Merchandise Sales	\$200.00
CD Interest	\$750.00
Miscellaneous	\$100.00
<b>Total Projected Income</b>	<b>\$8,550.00</b>

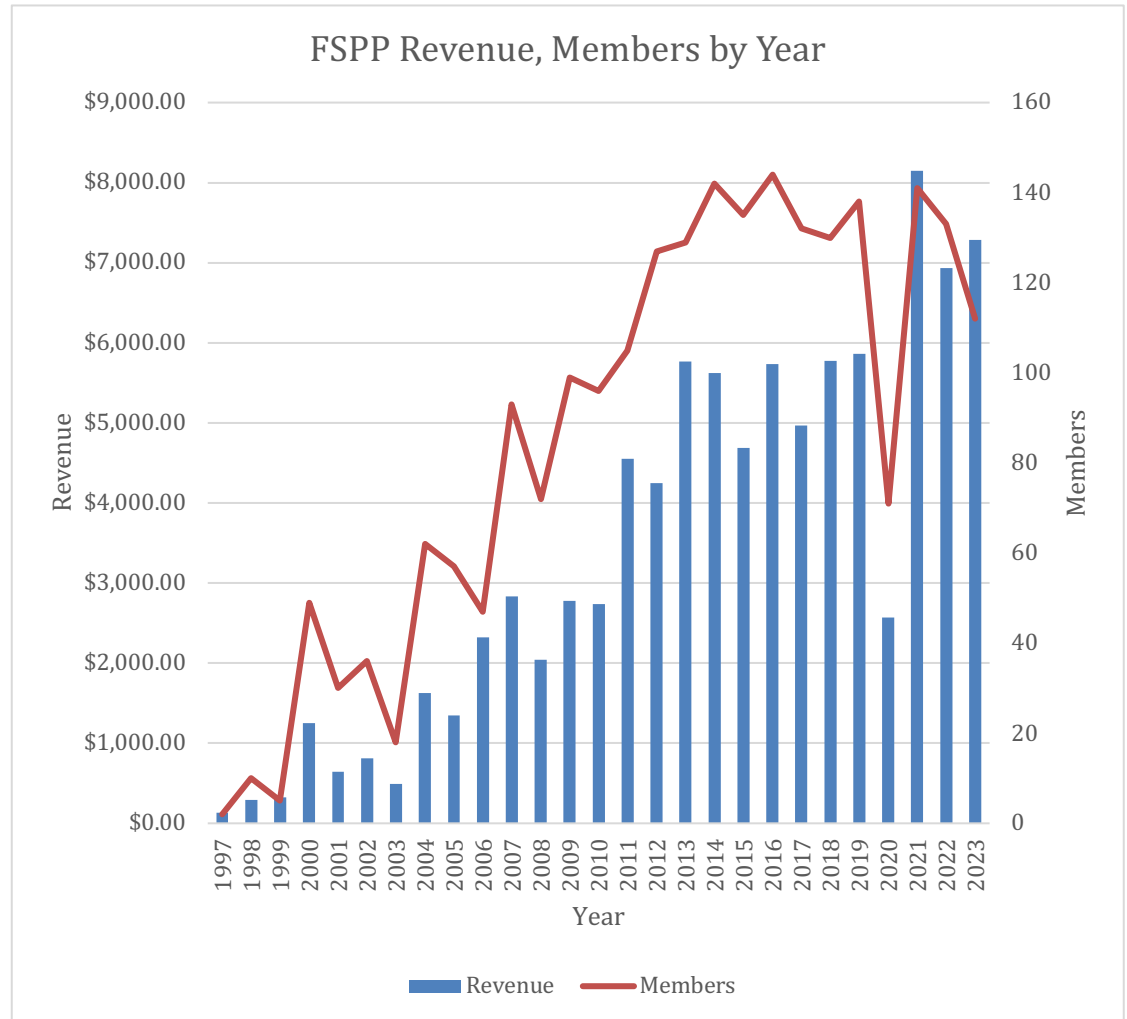
Projected Expenses	
Park maintenance expense (\$1,500 for a contract)	(\$3,000.00)
Fun Day expenses	(\$500.00)
Outreach booths (Town Day & Feast of East)	(\$150.00)
Portable toilet	(\$2,400.00)
Solicitations	(\$700.00)
Newsletters	(\$1,000.00)
Annual meeting notice	(\$100.00)
Website	(\$300.00)
Miscellaneous fees	(\$300.00)
<b>Total Projected Expenses</b>	<b>(\$8,450.00)</b>
<b>Net estimated income</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>

Assets	End of 2022	End 2023
Cash Box	\$50.00	\$50.00
In-kind Donations (40 Ice Business Booklets)	\$0.00	\$200.00
Checking accounts	\$34,126.11	\$17,207.24
Certificates of Deposit <sup>1</sup>	\$0.00	\$20,000.00
<b>Net Increase in Assets</b>		<b>\$3,281.13</b>
<b>Difference - Outstanding receipts &amp; payments</b>		<b>(\$530.64)</b>
<i>Dues and donations (included in 2022 and deposited in 2024)</i>		\$911.96
<i>Dues and donations from NFG (deposited in January 2024)</i>		\$625.00
<i>Tools &amp; supplies and Fun Day supplies (outstanding checks)</i>		(\$67.60)
<i>Payment to Town of Arlington (Environment / Invasive plant management)</i>		(\$2,000.00)
<b>Difference - Outstanding receipts &amp; payments</b>		<b>(\$530.64)</b>

<sup>1</sup>As of December 31, 2023, the Certificates of Deposit have accrued the total interest of \$753.13. Membership=112

Year Revenue Members

1997	\$130.00	2
1998	\$290.00	10
1999	\$325.00	5
2000	\$1,255.00	49
2001	\$647.00	30
2002	\$815.00	36
2003	\$495.00	18
2004	\$1,630.00	62
2005	\$1,347.00	57
2006	\$2,326.00	47
2007	\$2,835.00	93
2008	\$2,045.00	72
2009	\$2,775.00	99
2010	\$2,735.00	96
2011	\$4,554.04	105
2012	\$4,251.00	127
2013	\$5,770.00	129
2014	\$5,622.00	142
2015	\$4,688.00	135
2016	\$5,732.00	144
2017	\$4,965.00	132
2018	\$5,773.00	130
2019	\$5,860.70	138
2020	\$2,570.00	71
2021	\$8,145.00	141
2022	\$6,935.00	133
2023	\$7,287.00	112



### TREASURER'S REPORT:

Karen noted that more total dues were donated from slightly fewer households this year. Our 2 CDs will be mature in 2025, but we still have some cash balance for expenses before then. Susan noted that we will be in a good place for next year and thanked Karen for depositing the last of the checks from the 2023 donations. We thank Susan for all her reporting and accounting work for the FSPP.

Karen thanked Lally for organizing the t-shirt and tool inventory so that we have enough t-shirts to sell in the park.

### GOOD CITIZEN AWARD:

Karen presented the award and citation to Daniel Jalkut, this year's Good Citizen and FSPP Membership Secretary of seven years. His invaluable work includes mailing and database maintenance, as well as working closely with the Treasurer to coordinate the FSPP solicitations and donations. Karen noted: "Daniel does his work largely behind the scenes and does not share the 'attention' that others receive. However, the work is essential to our wellbeing as an organization." Congratulations, Daniel!

### 2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS and 2024 GOALS:

## **STEWARDSHIP TEAM:**

Anne continues to do a great job putting up posters in the two park bulletin boards. Karen thanked Lally and Sharon for organizing the shed.

Adrienne Landry reported in a written update:

“We changed the name of the Beautification Committee to the Stewardship Team to better reflect what we are doing. Thank you, Sharon Green for the new name.

“Have not heard from David Morgan about reimbursement of expenses for last year. We were given a \$591.00 grant. He is on paternity leave until March 2. Adrienne will contact Jennifer, the Office Manager about it.

“Glad FSPP has adopted the Volunteer Spotlight in our Newsletters. Adrienne believes folks are genuinely pleased to be selected. To promote volunteerism in the park, we may offer some kind of acknowledgement for those who have shown up for, all the workdays, or five workdays, or four.... etc., some kind of badge or sticker or acknowledgement in the Newsletter.”

Karen commented that 100+ volunteers worked more than 350 hrs. in maintenance, 235 hrs. in administrative duties, and 42 hrs. in outreach, totaling 627 hours! More than 71 bags of invasive plants, yard waste, and trash have been removed from the park. Karen thanked Lally, Adrienne, and Sharon from the Stewardship team for all their time and efforts.

## **2024 Work and Fun Days**

- April 27 9-11am
- May 18 9-11am
- June 22 9-11am
- July 27 8-10am
- Aug. 17 8-10am
- Sept. 7 9-11am
- Oct. 19 9-11am
- Fun Day Sept.14

The above dates will be publicized by Karen in March.

Karen reported that the playground and handicapped ramp renovation was completed.

Dick Norcross, longtime FSPP Stewardship volunteer, passed away in December. Over last summer, he had arranged for a bike rack donation with Karen for both ends of the park. Daniel suggested making it a priority to install a plaque in honor of Dick and his wife by the bike racks. Karen will check with the Arlington Park and Recreation Commission about this.

## **WEBSITE:**

Julie McBride does a great job of maintaining the database and updating links to newsletters and meeting minutes on the website.

See graph above for membership numbers for 2023 entered in the database; fewer households donated more funds overall. Susan noted that acknowledgements are done by email and/or snail mail. All acknowledgements are completed for 2023 donations.

Julie reported that she posted information linked from the Revegetation Area signs in the park planting beds to information on the ABOUT page on the FSPP website. Karen noted that Julie also created a photo gallery page for the 2022 photos on the site.

## **OUTREACH:**

Jenny reported the following:

- 1299 Facebook page followers (as of Jan 15, 2024), an additional 131 followers from last year
- Our Facebook page posts reached about 4,800 users; there were 491 Facebook user interactions (Jan 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023) - most interactions with Fun Day and Work Day posts
- Successful publicity of Work and Fun Days (Facebook page and volunteer group mailing lists)
- Shared links to FSPP newsletter on Facebook page for wider reach
- Worked with Save Arlington Wildlife and wrote letter of support for the local control bill--S.540/H.814, which would allow local municipalities like Arlington to ban harmful pesticides, including rodenticides--and H.804, Arlington's Home Rule petition, which would enable Arlington to ban SGARs on private properties.
- Distributed Save Arlington Wildlife MK postcard during Work Days
- Worked with FSPP team and Town of Arlington for Revegetation Area Signage and QR code link to FSPP website.

Jenny wondered how many click-throughs we have had to the newsletter from Facebook postings since starting the practice of sharing there and she may discuss this with Julie. Betsy thanked Jenny for the Fun Day publicity.

Betsy reported: "Successful Fun Day with approximately 400 attendees and 45 volunteers." She looks forward to the next one! Karen noted that someone has done geocaching on the island—a HS student who got permission from the town to do that as a project. This was something we tried in 2020 and we may want to revisit it. We thank Betsy for her dedication.

Karen noted that Lauren Bonilla may not be able to spend as much time with FSPP as in the past. She will post Lauren's position on VolunteerMatch to seek replacements. Lally wondered if we should consider splitting up the signup/data entry and the in-person check-in/attendance into two different roles and Karen agreed that this may be good to try in the posting.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

Karen thanked Lally for maintaining the memory scrapbook and may send her another article.

Karen asked Jenny if the local newspaper (formerly Arlington Advocate, which has merged with the Winchester Star) would accept a review of our Fun Day. Daniel suggested going through YourArlington.com or Wicked Local for PR as opposed to the reincarnated Arlington Advocate. Jenny will add it to her list of publications to check out.

#### **FSPP Standing Annual Goals**

1. Increase *active* membership by enlarging the core group of volunteers.
2. Maintain the park, as necessary.
3. Have Town Day, EcoFest, & Feast of the East outreach **Not Feast of the East**
4. Send bi-monthly meeting announcements & agendas
5. Sell more t-shirts and report on end-of-year-inventory **fewer t-shirts sold**
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, as permitted
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

All goals were achieved aside from the edits in red noted above. Karen noted that we did not increase the active core membership, but we had enough one-offs to have successful Work Days. Lally highlighted that Adrienne engaged some EcoFest volunteers in the park with plantings, although we did not participate in Feast of the East, which did not occur in 2023 (we will leave it in the 2024 goals in case it is resurrected).

## Goals for 2023

1. Monitor and influence as much as we can the Park Commissioner's efforts re: shoreline rehab, path improvement, and tot lot play area 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 2022. **Not done investigate for 2024**
3. Determine the need for alternatives for handling litter/trash and investigating how other towns do it.
4. Recruit a General Vice-President. **Not done**
5. Explore additional art for the park and investigate what is being done in other parks – investigate themes with connections to Arlington history and indigenous peoples. **Not done 2024 contact Public Art**
6. Monitor the town's pursuing finances for establishing signage about the soil erosion project and care of the planting beds.
7. Put up a sign in the rain garden explaining its environmental purpose and added fencing.
8. Identify and award 1-2 worthy citizens for outstanding service to the FSPP.
9. **Explore publicizing ArMI's mission before and during our Work Days. (2024)**

All goals were achieved aside from the edits in red noted above.

Daniel noted that as a recent Hardy parent, events are proposed and driven by the PTO, so he offered to find a contact point there through the Hardy Parent Facebook group—he will vet the message with Karen and Jenny. Jenny also has contacts: [HardyPTO@hardyschool.com](mailto:HardyPTO@hardyschool.com) and [ebb.jabb@gmail.com](mailto:ebb.jabb@gmail.com). It might be best to focus on one grade level for the study. Lally suggested preparing a list of the prior year's activities to help teachers have something to respond to and to generate ideas for curriculum follow-through.

We are still searching for a General VP within the organization.

RE: Goal #3, Karen will be publicizing a “carry-in/carry-out” policy in the next FSPP newsletter.

We will carry forward Goals #1, #2, #3, #4, and #5 from 2023 as goals for 2024. RE: Goal #6, Lally thinks the temporary signage is still there, but we may want to confirm if we need something more permanent. Jenny suggested incorporating publicization of the ArMI initiative through our Workdays and Karen added it as a Goal #9.

### **OTHER BUSINESS & NEXT MEETING DATE:**

March 24, 2023, 7 PM via Zoom

Karen welcomed Anna Doctor as the new Bulk Mailing Coordinator as of November 2023.

Respectfully submitted,  
Megan Chrisman  
Recording Secretary

## **2024 FSPP Officers and Committee Members**

**Jenny Aurielle Babon** moved to Arlington in 2015 and has been a Massachusetts resident since 2004. Born and raised in Cebu, Philippines, she came to the US for a PhD in Biomedical Sciences and is now works in R&D for a pharmaceutical company. Spy Pond Park is her favorite spot in town, and she enjoys taking walks, impromptu picnics and viewing sunsets with her family in the park. Her other interests include singing with the Boston College Filipino Community church choir, running, cycling, amateur photography and trying out different cuisines (both cooking and eating). Jenny has served as Publicity Chair for FSPP since February 2019.

**Lauren Bonilla** is a social scientist and educator who has lived near Spy Pond in East Arlington since 2019. She received her PhD in Geography from Clark University and is a Lecturer in the Anthropology Department at MIT, where she teaches classes on culture, technology, and human-environment relations. Lauren spends quality time around Spy Pond every day, such as birdwatching on the Route 2 pathway and cleaning up trash and debris on storm drain grates near the pond's shoreline with her storm drain-loving toddler, Hugo. She enjoys learning about the history of Spy Pond as a former site of ice harvesting to its current place in a complex urban ecosystem. Lauren is especially interested in contributing to efforts to help make Spy Pond and Spy Pond Park an inclusive public space where everyone feels welcome and a sense of belonging. She began serving as FSPP VP of Communications and Outreach in September 2021.

**Megan Chrisman** grew up in Southern California but still managed to become enthralled with the seasons when she moved to Boston as a college freshman and has stayed in the area ever since. She is happy to now be an Arlington resident and considers Spy Pond one of her favorite walking destinations. In addition to serving as the FSPP Recording Secretary beginning in 2021, Megan works in educational technology and her interests include reading, languages, slowly learning the electric bass guitar.

**Jamie Ciocco** has run Trendy.com, a technical consulting and software design company, since 1999. He programs interactive museum installations and designs custom software for clients across the country, including The Smithsonian, McGraw-Hill, the JFK Library and Museum, Hubbell Lighting, Inc., Waters, Inc., and the Georgia Aquarium. Prior to 1999, he was Lead Multimedia Programmer at SilverPlatter Education, where he programmed award-winning educational CD-ROMs and wrote pioneering eLearning software for the web. Jamie received his BA in English & American Literature from Harvard in 1994. He returned to Harvard from 1997 to 2004 to act as Assistant Senior Tutor and Drama Tutor in Residence, running a 90-seat theatre and publishing the House Facebook. While at Harvard, he also programmed an early online Facebook that was referenced in the movie *The Social Network*. He has been a FSPP VP for Communications and Outreach since 2008 doing newsletter design and layout.

**Anna Doctor** was born in Boston but spent most of her childhood in Nashville, TN. She earned her degree in Art History in 2018 from Colorado College, an institution that practices "the block system" or taking one class at a time. In between classes, Anna had the opportunity to explore the state and surrounding area through backpacking trips which developed her deep love and admiration for the outdoors. After graduating from college and thru hiking the Colorado Trail, Anna worked in curation at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center. She moved to Massachusetts the fall of 2021 to live closer to her family, all residents in eastern Massachusetts. She also returned to school and received a certificate in Graphic Design from Boston University in May 2023. Anna currently lives near Alewife station and loves to bike to Spy Pond Park on the Minuteman Trail. When she is not enjoying the surrounding green areas, Anna does communications work for a small creative business, climbs, and captains two ultimate frisbee teams. She is excited to serve as the new Bulk Mailing Coordinator this November.

**Karen L. Grossman** is from a small-town northeast of Pittsburgh, PA. She earned a B.S. from Syracuse University, an M.Ed. from Boston University and worked for 35 years as a speech and language pathologist in the Wilmington, MA Public Schools with children in preschool through high school. Karen has lived in Arlington since 1974 and currently resides on the shore of Spy Pond near the park. She enjoys her view of the pond every day and has been involved with the FSPP since 1992. She's been President of the organization since she retired from full time employment in 2004 and served on the Mystic River Watershed Association Board for 10 years beginning in 2009. Karen presently serves on their Outreach, Development, and the Herring Run and Paddle Committees. Karen's other interests include singing with the Mystic Chorale and Temple Shir Tikvah, reading, the arts, canoeing, exercising daily, and traveling the world.

**Daniel Jalkut** is a California native who has lived in the Boston area since 2005, and since 2011 in East Arlington with his wife and two young boys. He is a self-employed software developer who focuses on consumer-focused applications for Apple platforms including the Mac and iOS. He serves as an Arlington Town Meeting Member. In addition to his interest in technology and civic duties, he enjoys practicing guitar, piano, and singing. As an avid runner he enjoys Arlington's many open spaces, particularly the bike path and Spy Pond Park. Daniel took the position of FSPP Membership Secretary in 2017.

**Adrienne Landry** grew up in Wakefield, Massachusetts, and graduated high school there. In 1971, she left her hometown and moved to Montreal for the adventure of living in another country and expanding her horizons. She learned of programs for older students to enter college and began her educational journey which culminated in a B.F.A. in 1978. She is now a practicing artist and worked for 24 years as an art teacher in Belmont. Adrienne has lived in Arlington since 1990. Her interest in invasive plants began on Monhegan Island, Maine, when, during a five-week painting trip, she decided to give back to the community and get involved with the Monhegan Associates, the local environmental group. Her task was to cut down barberry which grows heartily there. When she returned home, she began noticing and learning about the many invasive plants on the local bike path and began to cut them down. She devised a method for eradicating the plants while not letting white vinegar harm anything else. On the Stewardship Team for FSPP, she is removing invasive plants and replacing them with native plants.

**Betsy Leondar-Wright**, a longtime activist for social justice, is an Associate Professor of sociology at Lasell College. She is the author of *Missing Class: Strengthening Social Movement Groups by Seeing Class Cultures* (Cornell University Press 2014) and *Class Matters: Cross-Class Alliance Building for Middle-Class Activists* (2005). From 2010 to 2015 she served as the



Program Director of Class Action ([www.classism.org](http://www.classism.org)) where she is still on the board, and taught sociology courses at Tufts, Harvard and Boston College. She first participated in environmental advocacy during the nuclear power movement in the 1970s. Betsy worked as a community organizer in low-income communities for a decade, including running youth programs at an urban community garden. Betsy has been active in the FSPP since 1997, is a past President and now focuses on children's activities and public education through performance and art serving as FSPP Chair for Park Events.

**Julie McBride**, originally from northern New York, has lived in the Boston area since 2001. She is a web developer for an environmental consulting firm, where she has worked since 2010 with a range of clients, including the EPA, to develop websites and software applications. She is particularly interested in making complex scientific data more accessible and understandable. Prior to her current work, she served as web/IT coordinator for a program at Harvard where she also continued her education in computer science. Julie visits Spy Pond often and enjoys the views through different seasons. She participates in Workdays and has maintained the FSPP website since March 2019.

**Fred Moses** has been Boston area photographer with over 25 years of experience. He has made both images and computer aided design tools for jewelers. Travel and travel photography are Fred's special loves. Environmental portraits of people working, marketplaces, and extremes are favorites. He has taken photos in Spy Pond Park's newsletter and website gallery since 2005. Fred's work is held in private collections internationally and has appeared in juried exhibits at the ACA and the Fuller Craft Museum. Also, he builds commercial websites and was the FSPP Webmaster 2005-2019. He has made marbled paper and silk scarves. During his five-decade technical career, Fred has held management and individual contributor positions in software engineering. Fred has a B.S. & M.S. in Engineering Science.

**Susan Saw** was born in Myanmar and moved to the US in 2000. She earned a dual master's degree in accounting and business administration from Northeastern University in 2008. Susan works in the finance department at an investment and asset management firm in Boston, enjoys traveling, eating new foods, and trying new experiences. Her favorite season is fall in New England. She joined the FSPP in June 2022 and continues supporting the FSPP as its Treasurer since September 2022.

**Lally Stowell** has worked with inner city youth in NYC and Cambridge and with preschool children in Head Start programs. She taught child development and parenting for many years at Watertown High School and then switched to teaching ESL in Cambridge, first at Centro Presente and then at the Cambridge Community Learning Center where she has been teaching an ESL Family Literacy class since 1993. Lally has also tutored day care providers through ABCD in Boston, mentored/tutored high school students through the Posse Foundation and volunteered at the Food Project. She has been active in helping to eliminate invasive species in the planting beds in Spy Pond Park, coordinating the Beautification Committee and was Publicity Co-Chair for the FSPP January 2010-2014. Lally maintains our Memory Books, the record of our community outreach efforts since the beginning of the FSPP.