

**FRIENDS OF SPY POND PARK
MEETING MINUTES
October 4, 2020**

The Zoom meeting started approximately at 7:00 pm and ended at 8:15 pm.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Karen Grossman – has not been in the park for a couple of weeks. She said the park looks nice, and she sees the crew team and people enjoying wind surfing, sailing, kayaking, boating and fishing on the pond from her deck. She has been a member of Friends of Spy Pond Park since 1992 and President since 2005.

Lally Stowell – coordinates workdays and volunteers for the same. She has actually been at the park quite a bit lately for various reasons. She is pleased to see people relaxing and enjoying the park when she is there.

Sally Hempstead – does outreach, runs FSPP Town Day participation, and solicits articles for the newsletter. Mentioned that there's been less to do this year re: the pandemic, of course. Drove by the park recently and was very pleased to see the parking lot was jammed.

Marshall McCloskey – has been to the park a number of times recently re: replacing the enclosed bulletin board(s), taking measurements and planning. Usually sees lots of people enjoying the park, as usual. Obviously, an important asset to the Town.

Kevin Wall – our new treasurer. Has spent lots of time in Arlington parks, playgrounds, skating, and the Brackett School while bringing up his family here in Arlington, is a registered CPA, and interested in giving back to the Town. He is on the board of the Sanborn Foundation, which helps Arlington, Massachusetts residents pay for expenses related to their cancer care and treatment. Since its inception, the Foundation has granted over \$3,000,000 and helped hundreds. See sanbornfoundation.org.

Colin Blair – participates in park beautification and also fills in where and whenever needed. Retired from the Commonwealth 8 years ago, where he had been an IT worker for some 25 years. Has not actually been to the park for the last couple of months, times being what they are, but has noticed the parking lot usually being full.

AUGUST MINUTES ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS:

The minutes of the August 2 meeting were reviewed previously and accepted as submitted.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Joanie Walls submitted the following report of activity August through September:

Treasurer's Report - Sunday, October 04, 2020	
Book Balance 8/2/2020	\$25,449.71
2020 Donations/Dues	300.00
Beautification Committee Expenses - ck # 430	(96.74)
Book Balance 10/3/2020	\$25,652.97
Bank Balance 10/3/2020	\$25,749.71
Outstanding Check #430	\$(96.74)

Joanie Walls has transferred everything over to Kevin Wall with respect to the FSPP Treasurer responsibilities, access to the bank account, and various computer tools she has used in carrying out her responsibilities. Karen will see that Kevin gets access to the FSPP database.

Unanimous: Many thanks to Joanie Walls for the excellent job she has done as Treasurer for the last years. It's not just depositing and writing checks. There are forms to be submitted in a timely fashion to the State and Federal governments in order to maintain our status as a charitable organization, acknowledgments to donors, etc. And thanks to Kevin Wall for volunteering to take on the job.

Karen reported from the database and Joanie's records that we have received \$2,545 in dues and donations from 70 people so far in 2020.

Marshall, after some discussion, has planned our usual fall solicitation mailing to be completed by November 10. We (Karen) will solicit volunteers to stuff envelopes and affix address labels as we did successfully last May.

BEAUTIFICATION:

As mentioned in the previous meeting's minutes, Karen and Marshall were successful in getting the Town to split the cost (approximately \$500 each) of replacing the cork bulletin boards on the locked board near the Pond Lane entrance to the park. The current two boards (the cork has deteriorated) are back to back, configured as a single unit, were no longer available from the manufacturer. The replacement boards were ordered as separate units to be put back to back in the current mounting frame. They have been received, but unfortunately the glass door panel on one of them broke during transit. We are awaiting a Lexan panel replacement before installation can take place. The dimensions of the replacement boards are slightly smaller than the original (fortunately), so some adjustments for mounting them in the current frame will be necessary. Marshall will see to the installation, as required.

The August and September Workdays went very well with all paperless online preregistration. Lally reported that they were fully subscribed, and some people had to be turned away due to social distancing concerns. Somewhat remarkable, considering the 8 am starting time. There were lots of young people and parents with kids. The focus was, as usual, on removing grass from between the cobblestones, pruning near the planting bed fences, raking the wood chips in the playground, and picking up trash. Rich Norcross did a great job of trimming the saplings near the shoreline, long overdue. There were 3 people on hand to greet the workers and assign responsibilities.

We currently have 12 people signed up for the October Workday. Lally told People Making a Difference® not to come this time since there would not be enough to do. She agreed to submit a schedule for the 2021 Workdays at the next meeting. She will, however, no longer be responsible for handling maintenance of the planting beds.

Lally and Karen did a walk-through of the planting beds with Emily Sullivan, Conservation Agent, re: what was planted and where. They will walk through again, scheduled for October 13, to take photos of the plants, re: identifying their location and getting more information on how to care for them. Lally will be in charge of general park maintenance, not including the planting beds next year (the responsibility of the other members of the Beautification Committee).

There is not yet any definitive information regarding vacuuming the pervious path. Once or twice per year? Will FSPP be responsible if more than once?

WEBSITE

Karen indicated that Daniel has been keeping the database up to date and Julie McBride has been posting the minutes to the website.

OUTREACH

Jenny Babon has posted updates on Facebook, Arlington Patch, and the Arlington Advocate about the FSPP Scavenger Hunts. She is presently updating our email list from Elaine Crowder's listserves. Sally has made a reservation for the month of April 2021 to exhibit the FSPP display at the Robbins Library. Karen reported that our current Mailchimp statistics re: people who open the mailings and click on the links seem good. This is in regard to the mailings that Karen sends out, with announcements, etc.

COMMUNICATIONS

The deadline for submitting articles for the Fall newsletter is October 15th. We have a photo of Patrick Karper with the large Muskie that he caught at Spy Pond, that was sent to Joe Connelly, Arlington Director of Parks and Recreation. He forwarded it to us thinking it might be of interest to readers. Sally will pass on any articles she receives to Karen. There is a new exhibit on the bike path, plarn sculptures described in our newsletter previously, photos of which may be of available for the Fall/Winter Newsletter.

PARK ACTIVITIES

The response to the planned History Mysteries Hunt with QR Codes and a Public Art Hunt in the park and nearby created by Betsy Leonder-Wright via brainstorming with Karen Grossman, Anne Ellinger and others has been disappointing. Betsy reported that few people followed the clue sequences, perhaps opening the QR codes they happened to see. The number of clicks besides her regular testing by the time of this meeting: 1600s – 20, 1700s – 13, 1800s – 20, 1900s – 22, 2020 – 8.

NEW BUSINESS AND NEXT MEETING:

The **FSPP Annual Meeting** will be held on Sunday, January 10 via Zoom. Two suggestions for a speaker are Joe Connelly, Arlington Director of Parks and Recreation and David White, member of the Arlington Conservation Commission who is writing a grant proposal for renovating the North Beach handicapped ramp. Additional ideas from the membership for a speaker will be solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
Marshall McCloskey
Recording Secretary