

**FRIENDS OF SPY POND PARK
MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 13, 2022**

INTRODUCTIONS:

Karen Grossman, Lally Stowell, Adrienne Landry, Phinney Morrison, Megan Chrisman, Susan Saw

SEPTEMBER 18 MEETING MINUTES ADDITIONS & CORRECTIONS:

The meeting minutes were approved with the following corrections:

1. In the “Beautification” section, second paragraph, change “All of the invasive plants are in one bed” to “most of the invasive plants and the buckthorn are in Bed 4”
2. In the “Beautification” section, in the paragraph beginning “Parterre’s services will be funded”, change “Parterre should make planting” to add “and weed removal”

TREASURER'S REPORT: Susan Saw

We had some income from donations, membership, and Town/Fun Day, but also had some expenses such as fence installation, newsletter, and solicitation printing/mailing, resulting in a slightly lower balance from September 17. Miscellaneous charges were for the shed sign fees and filing the annual report with the state. Karen mentioned that some donations come through Network for Good on monthly basis. Karen will give Network for Good site access to Susan so she can see who made the donations. Susan filed the annual report on Nov 1, 2022 and the filing fee was \$18.50 (up \$3.50 from previous amount). Karen suggested keeping fees in a separate section for the annual report. Karen had asked Sarah to do the PC filing, but it looks like it still needs to be done, so Susan will take this on. It’s 14 pages of detail but is mostly copy/paste from the older reports while inserting new figures. Susan will reach out to Sarah to confirm we can use her figures by sending her a text. The group voted unanimously to have Susan purchase a \$10,000 CD for one year in mid-January 2023, just before the annual meeting.

Bank Account Balance as of 07/15/22: \$32,145.08; \$32,358.60 after outstanding transactions			
Bank Account Balance as of 9/17/2022: \$33,376.08; \$32,888.60 after outstanding transactions			
Income		Expenses	
Contributions via NFG (Network for Good)	\$150.00		
Memberships & Donations	\$380.00		
TOTAL REVENUE	\$530.00	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$0.00

Any budget needs anticipated for 2023 should be submitted to Susan for the annual report.

Karen commented that she and Marshall McCloskey worked on getting the solicitation envelopes and contents ready for 5 volunteers to stuff and label (there were 483 mailings going to street mail addresses). Karen will send the email solicitation; it’s possible there will be people who receive one of each. Karen and Marshall will go into Boston for the final filing after previously confirming that the setup was correct; they also confirmed that they can file the solicitation letters in Waltham, which is much more convenient. Marshall is still looking for a bulk mailing coordinator or assistant to file the paperwork and potentially take over the mailing position.

BEAUTIFICATION:

Anne Ellinger has continued to post the FSPP newsletters on the bulletin board and cleans up the Community side.

On the park maintenance front, Adrienne reported: “We have not had much activity since the October Workday. One of the major jobs for that Workday was transplanting plants from overgrown areas in the beds to the bike path. This job was carried out by Sharon Green and three volunteers (Alicia Brennan and two of her friends) who came all the way from Wakefield. Julie McBride also took part with a few volunteers. They transplanted between 12-15 plants each of Joe-Pye-weed and goldenrod. Both are excellent native perennial plants that welcome ladybugs, butterflies, bumblebees, and other insects. The plants multiply heartily so they will not be missed in the beds. All volunteers did a great job on that assignment. It was a lot of work digging up the plants and digging holes in which to transplant them. Their new home on the bike path is to the left of the back side of Walgreens as you face it from the bike path. David Morgan, the Conservation Commission Agent, agreed to, and ordered a “Revegetation Area” sign.

Lally Stowell coordinated a group of 1st graders, and their parents, to clear the vegetation between the cobblestones. The parents were watchful of their children, and all did very good jobs. When they finished their assignments, they picked up a variety of odd jobs. Regarding Parterre, Adrienne is not sure if Parterre has come for the 3rd day. They were assigned to 3 days this year. David Morgan said he would have them do what they originally said they would do--clear the invasive plants from the coir fascine area close at the shoreline and the adjacent slope where they had planted two years ago.

Regarding fencing, Joe Connelly had the Haven Contracting Corp. put the temporary fencing back up at the ends of the beds. It had been taken down after the work done two years ago. Adrienne has not seen anyone in the beds since. She observed a little girl and her mother having a discussion near one of the beds. The girl said, "I would love to climb up that tree." Her mother said, "I do not think you should. That is why the fencing is there."

Karen mentioned David Morgan sent an email saying that Parterre planned to come in for their third day this week.

Karen asked Adrienne whether one smaller sign like the example she showed should go into each planting bed and Adrienne agreed; only one sign would contain the full "Do not walk here..." background text. "Revegetation" is a good descriptor. Karen suggested chatting with David about this and moving forward in the meantime; Adrienne thinks this could be good to pick up in March next year to be completed by the spring. Adrienne also has a page of information for the website that she can work on adding with Julie.

FSPP collaborated with the Arlington/Belmont Crew Team on moving the FSPP shed. James Benn, crew team representative, did most of the work, along with additional people who helped to expand the area for the crew team's shell storage. After considering four options, the shed was moved over to the side of the lot across from the crew team cage. Marshall also consulted. They reused the cement block foundation on which the shed had been, so it's still raised off the ground and level.

Karen asked Adrienne what to request from ConComm for FY 23-24; she replied that she needs to discuss this with Miles (manager of Parterre). Susan asked what the final \$1000 payment schedule is for the rest of this year and Karen replied that we are waiting to receive Parterre's report of their third visit first. Adrienne will send David Morgan an email asking for this report and copy Karen. After we survey Parterre's work, we will schedule the payment. Adrienne has put in for a small grant (\$775) for three high school volunteers for next year and Karen suggested asking for \$5,000 for the contractor again, with \$1600 for the upper beds including invasive plant removal and revegetation. Adrienne will contact David about this, and we will revise as necessary afterward.

Joe Connelly, Arlington Director of Parks and Recreation, thought the playground renovation will be done this year and the handicap ramp has been completed. Karen heard a wheelchair user remark how wonderful it was to get close to the water at North Beach. The pebbles from the rubber coming up from the surface of the path through the park was seemingly not being considered by the Parks Department or ConComm. Karen communicated about it with Joe Connelly who talked to David Morgan. It's supposed to be vacuumed twice a year but hasn't been vacuumed in about three years, so there is a lot of debris. Something should be done when the playground is completed or maybe even before the winter. We'll keep an eye out and bring this up again in the spring if the status hasn't changed.

WEBSITE:

Julie McBride continues to do a good job posting to and maintaining the website and Daniel Jalkut is tracking donations in the database through membership dues and additional contributions, which enables us to send out emails through Mailchimp. Julie will create a link on the website Workday page to comment about the planting beds; we now have a QR code. Adrienne has a draft of what to say and when it is ready Julie will link it up to the QR code on the planting beds sign.

OUTREACH:

Lauren Bonilla reported: "The October 15th Workday was a great success! We had volunteers from multiple daisy and cub scout troops, students from AHS, family members volunteering together, and even a 9-year-old having his first volunteer experience all on his own. While we get interest from folks on Volunteer Match, they tend to be no-shows. However, one volunteer - Alicia Brennan of Wakefield - has been fabulous in her help and bringing friends to join her.

“T-Shirt sales were a bit slow earlier in the summer, but we sold many t-shirts on the October Workday along with good donations. Some folks have asked if we could take Paypal or Venmo in the future, since people tend not to carry around cash these days. Perhaps this is something we can investigate for next season? I imagine we'd get more t-shirt sales, donations, and memberships if we can do this.

Lauren Bonilla says she's going to be coordinating with Phinney about her taking over volunteer correspondence and other outreach activities in 2023 because, unfortunately, her schedule has become quite full, and she's increasingly stretched thin. Lauren really enjoys being present at the Workdays and talking with volunteers and passers-by and would love to continue helping as much as I am able in the future. She sends many thanks to Lally, Adrienne, and Sharon for all they do to make the Workdays fun and productive.

Karen can check about setting up Venmo or Paypal; we will investigate it for next year. It is also possible to securely hook up Square to the FSPP bank account for use while Lauren or Phinney, etc. sit at events. Karen will discuss this with Susan before the annual meeting.

Jenny has a QR code for the Workdays, which Karen will send to Julie when it is finalized in the early spring.

The FSPP Fall/Winter 2022 newsletter: featured comments from Betsy Leondar-Wright: Saturday September 24 was a windy, chilly morning, but that didn't stop more than 35 volunteers from leading a dozen nature-themed activities for more than 300 children and adults in Spy Pond Park at the 20th Annual Fun Day. The Fun Day tradition is a celebration of community spirit, a rare gathering of so many non-commercial, low-tech, all-volunteer, collaboratively created, nature-themed, hands-on, delightful activities.” Susan asked if any pictures from the Fun/Workdays have been posted to the website yet. Karen said that she and Sally Hempstead usually curate the photos after the end of the year for Julie to post.

Karen shared some sketches from Kari Percival (AIR) for the FSPP poster. We should receive around 15 copies and they can be posted in a similar manner to the revegetation sign; we can also reuse the design for other literature. We may have input when we see the final design and we could also look at the final Elaine Crowder Army poster for reference of what ours might be like.

COMMUNICATIONS:

The deadline for the Winter/Spring Newsletter will be February 12. Karen may include some photos from the Fun Day, and she asked for writing leads. Karen confirmed for Susan that the newsletter is distributed through email, with hardcopies going out to the 2 Arlington libraries.

OTHER BUSINESS & ANNUAL MEETING DATE: January 29, 2022, 6 PM on Zoom link TBA. Douglas Rosner, president of BOD for the Arlington Belmont Crew Team, will be our speaker with Rosemary Burke, one of the original founders of the program. The talk will be “Arlington Belmont Crew Team: Past, Present, and Future.”

Respectfully submitted,
Megan Chrisman
Recording Secretary