

**FRIENDS OF SPY POND PARK  
MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 24, 2024**

**INTRODUCTIONS:** Karen Grossman, Adrienne Landry, Megan Chrisman, Lally Stowell, Jenny Babon, Susan Saw, and Sharon Greene. Diana Maggini joined after introductions.

**JANUARY 21 MEETING MINUTES ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS:**

The meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

Susan Saw confirmed that the \$3000 in the park maintenance expense line under “projected expenses” for 2024 includes \$1500 for Parterre for 2 years apiece (2023-2025), so we are funded through 2024 for Parterre’s work.

For future annual meetings, we may just mention the speaker’s presentation in the meeting minutes and refer people to the newsletter notes for more detail, rather than include a summary of the presentation in the minutes.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Bank Account Balance as of 12/31/2023: \$17,207.24			
Bank Account Balance as of 03/15/2024: \$16,602.15			
Income		Expenses	
Contributions via NFG <sup>1</sup> (Network For Good)	\$675.00	Winter/Spring 2024 Newsletters Printing and Laminations	\$(381.35)
Membership dues	\$230.00	Environmental & Plant Management / Park Maintenance Expense <sup>2</sup>	\$(2,000.00)
Donations	\$962.03	Beautification tools & supplies / miscellaneous expense <sup>3</sup>	\$(90.77)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,867.03</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$(2,472.12)</b>

<sup>1</sup> Contributions via NFG of \$625 was reported in the 2023-year financial report.

<sup>2</sup> The environmental & plant management / park maintenance expense of \$2,000 was reported in the 2023- year financial report.

<sup>3</sup> The reimbursement of beautification tools and supplies of \$67.60 was reported in the 2023-year financial report.

There were no major changes from the first quarter of the year. Karen Grossman mentioned that Lauren Bonilla gave her the cash box which had \$25 from ice business booklet sales, \$120 from T-shirts sales (8), and \$135 from donations for a total of \$280, in addition to \$50 in the cash box. Karen will deposit this money into the account in Arlington and send the details to Susan for inclusion in her report for the next meeting.

Grant money of \$450.59 is still due from the ALT to Adrienne Landry and \$141.41 is due to FSPP =total \$591. Susan had reported it in the 2023 session because of when she got an email about it.

**STEWARDSHIP TEAM:**

Thanks to Anne Ellinger for maintaining the community side and the FSPP side of the bulletin boards!

Lally Stowell reported that rather than for BU's Global Day of Service, the volunteers for the April Work Day will be for EcoFest because BU has discontinued listing volunteer opportunities outside of the city of Boston. Charlotte Milan will handle the publicity on the Town's website, so Jenny doesn't need to do so (she will begin her outreach starting with the May Work Day). Adrienne and Lally will coordinate the work for the "official" April day, and there may be a second "unofficial" day, if needed.

Adrienne reported that we will plant eight shrubs in the spring and eight more in the fall. Through last year, we had planted 45; with this year added there will be a total of 61 plantings. All the shrubs have survived, even though many of the flowering plants have been trampled. Perhaps this is because people are less likely to tread on woody-stemmed plants. Since this is the case, from now on we will plant only shrubs.

Linwood Beach is covered in debris even after being cleared down to the sand last year, and Adrienne has heard that there is an outlet from Mass Ave. Adrienne proposed that FSPP approach the Town about building a catch basin or fence of some type to prevent the debris from reaching the beach. The best solution could depend on the water depth near the outlet. Karen suggested discussing this with Joe Connelly and the DPW, as it would cost \$4K to do the same thing they did last year.

In the planting bed opposite the playground area, there are native quaking aspen that will grow into trees. Adrienne suggested digging them up and planting them to the right of the staircase going up to the bike path, where some Tree of Heaven are. We might want to approach Tim Lecuivre, the Tree Warden, to help implement this.

Adrienne asked if we want to attach a monthly stipend to the FSPP VP posting. We will table this idea for more thought and Karen will raise it as a topic for discussion in the next meeting. Karen may also ask the Mystic River Watershed Association about the process for writing a grant.

### **FSPP 2024-25 Punchlist for Spy Pond Park for Joe Connelly continued below Submitted 3/4/24 by Karen L. Grossman and Adrienne Landry**

- 1) Clean up Linwood Beach, including several feet of leaves below the H<sub>2</sub>O surface.





- 2) Request that the landscapers not park their trucks on the slope leading down to Linwood Beach as they leave huge ruts that fill with water, then mud. Repair ruts near Linwood St.
- 3) Ask Tim Lecuivre about moving saplings growing in Bed 6 opposite the playground
- 4) Create a water source in the park (added during FSPP meeting)
- 5) Install new bike racks at the Linwood St. and Pond Lane entrances of the park.
- 6) Vacuum, repair holes and seal the path through the park a.s.a.p.
- 7) Additional signage to explain the rain gardens in the park with ConComm (Arlington Conservation Commission).
- 8) Plant grass where there used to be grass, but now there is just dirt or pebbles.
- 9) Repair the black fence to prevent further deterioration.
- 10) Post metal numbers on the planting beds (added during FSPP meeting)

**WEBSITE:**

After discussion among Julie McBride, Karen, and Adrienne, it might make the most sense to add a link to the Work Days page to include Adrienne's information about work being done in the planting beds.

**OUTREACH:**

Jenny will publicize the dates for Work Days and asked when the revegetation page will be posted on the website. Karen replied that it is posted on the History tab and asked Adrienne to update the page copy to refer to 2024.

Lauren Bonilla will turn over Outreach and Communication responsibilities to Jenny since she may be moving (thank you Lauren and Jenny!); an 8<sup>th</sup> grader, Agathe Shaeffer and resident Albert Tsai may also assume some responsibilities for managing the volunteers before and after the Work Days.

Karen will ask Lauren to send Jenny some templates for replying. If Jenny can distribute waivers electronically before the events, that would be great. Jenny will not be able to commit to being in person during the events.

Diana Maggini is a new Arlington resident who is looking to become involved in the FSPP Work Days and/or Outreach. Welcome, Diana!

Betsy Leondar-Wright reports that we are need prizes for the next Fun Day.

Anna Doctor reported to Karen that she will prepare for the annual dues/donation solicitation in May.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

The Summer 2024 Newsletter deadline will likely be in the middle of the summer.

**NEW BUSINESS AND NEXT MEETING DATE:** May 5, 7 PM Zoom TBA. Susan will prepare the Treasurer's report and submit it to Karen by April 30.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,**

Megan Chrisman  
Recording Secretary