

**FRIENDS OF SPY POND PARK
MEETING MINUTES
April 26, 2020**

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

The meeting commenced at 7:00 pm. Times being what that are, this was the first time that FSPP conducted an **on-line** business meeting. On April 17, Karen Grossman had sent out an email to our Mail Chimp email list, which includes all current FSPP members and others, inviting anyone to join the meeting on Zoom. She apologized for not sending out a reminder within the last few days, which may have encouraged more participation.

Per the coronavirus guidelines, access to the park has been limited for the past 6 weeks or so, and outdoor activities have been curtailed. The April workday was canceled. So in lieu of reporting what they enjoyed in the park lately, those who joined the meeting were asked to report on how they were coping with the shutdown and shelter in place.

Karen Grossman – is doing OK. Avoids going out as much as possible. Has been ordering groceries thru Instacardt which has been working out all right. Noticing from her porch that spring is coming, the birds are back, and is cheered by that.

Jenny Babon – has fallen into a rhythm. Gets out to the park with her one-year old daughter frequently, usually in the morning. (lives nearby.) Her daughter is definitely not happy with the playground/tot lot being closed.

Peter Fuller – doing OK. Gets by the park fairly frequently on his bike. Rode by recently and noticed that there were a fair number of people, following social distancing protocol of course, enjoying the park.

Sally Hempstead – has been getting out practically every day, and taking a walk with her husband in a different neighborhood somewhere. So, getting fresh air and exercise, as well as interesting new experiences. Goes to Star Market during early morning senior hours, once a week is sufficient, to get groceries. Not nannying her grandkids after school as usual, of course. Misses them, but fortunately gets to see them when Facetiming with their parents.

Lally Stowell – is on-line a lot, spending tons of time figuring out how to do her teaching responsibilities with it. Walks up to the park occasionally to see what is happening. Has found her neighbors quite helpful with things like grocery shopping, etc.

Julie McBride – is still busy with work. This has actually not been too big a shift for her. Visits the park occasionally.

Marshall McCloskey – see above, Sally Hempstead. Working around the apartment, making improvements (to my mind) here and there, tidying up things that might not otherwise get attention, browsing the web a lot (too much).

JANUARY 12 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS

The previous meeting minutes were attached to the current meeting's agenda. A motion was made and they were accepted as submitted without additions or corrections.

TREASURER'S REPORT WITH JANUARY - APRIL FINANCES:

Joanie Walls sent in an email report: “There are still 2 donations I need to collect from Daniel which are not included below. I need to complete the 990 by the May due date as well. Please let me know if I need to reimburse anyone.

1/1/2020 Balance	\$22,865
Dues/Donations	\$765
2019 Town Day Booth Reimbursed	-\$50
Winter/Spring Newsletters	<u>-\$381</u>
4/28/2020 Balance	\$23,199”

Joanie provided the following information, after the meeting: The balance above is 100% checking. The CD matured last October and the money was deposited into the checking account well before year end. At year end the CD balance was \$0. To get a good interest rate I had went with my personal financial advisor. Turned out the fees were just about as much as the interest earned. He did me a favor and reversed out the fees. Happy to watch local interest rates and reinvest \$10k in another CD if you want me to.

May 2020 dues/donation solicitation: We set a target date of May 15 for getting out the May solicitation. We are waiting for final updates to the database for Marshall to submit the necessary forms to the Post Office and to print address labels (~700 usually). Since we won't be able to have the usual group mailing get-together, Marshall will be distributing batches of approximately 100 each: labels, envelopes, and solicitation letters to various volunteers. Give them a few days to put everything together, then collect them when completed, and get the mailing out.

BEAUTIFICATION

Lally noted that having a workday requires quite a bit of handling of tools and equipment, along with supervision and interaction with workers and visitors. It might also be necessary to clean and disinfect the tools and various equipment before storing them away. She is not comfortable with the idea of having a May workday given the present circumstances. Jenny Babon agreed that this could continue to be a problem throughout the summer. It was agreed to cancel the upcoming May workday. Karen will notify the volunteer organizations that work with us, and Julie McBride will post the information on the website. Jenny Babon will do the same on Facebook.

So the question of park maintenance in the interim was addressed, particularly as it relates to the plant bed maintenance. If the Town of Arlington can be counted on to help, we would need to spell out what we would want them to do. Lally said digging the trenches along the planting bed fences and possibly weeding the grass between the cobblestones might be the extent of what we could reasonably ask of them. Emily Sullivan, Agent for the Conservation Commission, is working with Parterre, Haven, and Hatch to determine how the Town is going to wrap up the Spy Pond Edge Protection and Erosion Control Project. Karen indicated that having a meeting with the town to discuss things is problematical at the present time.

Lally cleaned the storm drains on Linwood Street within the last couple of months and said they didn't seem to be overly clogged. Karen will take a look at the ones on Pond Lane.

WEBSITE

Julie McBride removed the information regarding the April workday from the website and has been making other postings as requested or required. Karen made note of the fact that we can now look up persons by interest or involvement thanks to Fred Moses' recent updates to the database app.

OUTREACH

Jenny has obtained Elaine Crowder's listserv contact list but has not tried using it yet. She has posted some pictures on Facebook of the Spy Pond Overlook which was completed in early March. Access to the Overlook from the handicapped ramp apparently is not yet complete

COMMUNICATIONS

After some discussion, it was agreed that we have sufficient material to publish a Spring/Summer newsletter. The thought also being that it would reflect favorably on FSPP for people to have a somewhat upbeat local publication to see on the bulletin boards and perhaps the libraries about town. Some items that we might include are pictures of the new plants, pictures of the Overlook, an article on the impact of the coronavirus epidemic on the Park and FSPP, an article on an art project in the making on plastic eating microorganisms as it might relate to Spy Pond. a new workday schedule, etc.

Sally Hempstead set June 15 as the deadline for submitting articles.

NEW BUSINESS AND NEXT MEETING:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm

The next meeting is scheduled for **7:00 pm, Sunday, May 24, 2020.**

A good chance, again on Zoom. Otherwise, location to be communicated.