

**FRIENDS OF SPY POND PARK  
MEETING AGENDA  
MAY 5, 2025 7 PM**

**INTRODUCTIONS:**

Karen Grossman, Lally Stowell, Diana Maggini, Jenny Babon, Megan Chrisman, Sandip Agarwal

**MARCH 2, 2025 MEETING MINUTES ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS:**

The meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** We are continuing to advertise for a new Treasurer, and Sandip Agarwal has volunteered to learn to acknowledge the contributions. He will pick up the donation checks from Daniel Jalkut who lives in East Arlington. Karen will orient Sandip on a Mon. or Wed. pm to learn how.

Bank Account Balance as of 02/28/2025: \$24,165.17 Bank Account Balance as of 04/30/2025: \$24,429.94			
Income		Expenses	
Contributions via NFG (Network For Good)	\$168.75	Newsletter and Work Day Schedule Printing	\$(459.78)
Dues & Donations (Checks)	\$610.03	Tax Return e-Filing Fees <sup>1</sup>	\$(54.23)
Total Income	\$778.78	Total Expenses	\$(514.01)

<sup>1</sup> Federal and state tax return filings have been completed.

<sup>2</sup> Karen deposited contributions totaling \$220 on 5/5/25.

<sup>3</sup> CDs were renewed with Metro Credit Union at 3.78 % interest for 2 years.

**STEWARDSHIP TEAM:**

Anne Ellinger is doing a great job with bulletin board maintenance and liking it!

On the topic of Parterre involvement in further work in the lower planting beds Adrienne Landry reported:

“Adrienne met with Anthony Serra of Parterre on 4/28 and we walked through the park, and noted what needed to be done this year. We listed 14 shrubs and a few other plants: flowering perennials and switchgrass. Parterre will do all plant purchases, planting and cleaning Linwood Beach and area in the water nearby. We are waiting to hear their charges for all the requested work. David Morgan would like include their maintaining the rain garden at Linwood, too.

We'll pay \$3,000 minus the cost of the plants Adrienne already purchased and planted, and the Con Comm will foot the bill for the rest, we hope, since they've budgeted \$45,000 for Spy Pond.

We may have to divide this up and do 1/2 in the spring and 1/2 in the fall to keep up with volunteers watering all those plants. We could do all at once if we can look into another way of watering, i.e. outside volunteers or pay someone. Temporary Revegetation signs are still in good condition."

Karen is looking into having QR codes with reference to a space on our website for the rain garden designs with Emily Snyder's help from the Garden Club.

Continuing items for Stewardship Team:

- Contacting the Volunteer Coordinator at the High School to get a watering rotation going.  
Karen asked if Jenny could set up a Google Doc that Karen could include in a MailChimp request for volunteers to sign up through. Jenny just needs times/dates to include in the chart. Karen will relay this to Adrienne so that Adrienne can contact Jenny about it.
- Consider moving meetings to Monday. The group decided to keep meetings on Sundays for now and move the time to 5.
- Offering citations or other acknowledgement for folks who volunteer for 4+ Work Days. Adrienne will design something for this purpose.

Karen reported that Natasha Waden, new Park and Recreation Director, will not be holding Friends of Parks meetings this year. Lally explained to Linda Kirchner that we have permission via Charlotte Milan, DPW, to treat invasive growth, dispose of debris and plant native plants, and have been doing so for years. The Park Commission is working with the Con Comm to establish a town-wide policy for this activity in parks, etc. Lally asked the DPW, Kevin Naughton, the Parks Supervisor, to shear of the bushes at the end of Linwood to the Beach and forsythias off Linwood. They will do it early in July.

Brad Barber displayed our photo board, our Work Day schedule, and 2020-2024 accomplishments at the Spy Pond Committee table at Eco Fest. He said attendance was sparse. Our EcoFest Work Day was originally scheduled for April 26; 3 volunteers signed up, but only 1 participated along with 4 Stewardship Team members on the rain date, Sunday, April 27. They dug 2 holes for transplanting shrubs and removed stalks from last year's dead plants for a total of 10 bags of yard waste.

#### **WEBSITE:**

Daniel Jalkut has brought the database up to date so our notices will reach all who have expressed an interest, including the long sign-up lists from the library display and last year's Town Day.

Julie McBride is doing a great job with postings on our website.

**OUTREACH:**

Jenny Babon reported on the following items:

- 1) Instagram posting - Do Not Feed Geese and Work Day 2025 schedule.
- 2) Work Day 2025 schedule sent to group mailing list and posted on Facebook. Will send reminder for May 17 Work Day this week.
- 3) No outreach at Eco Fest Work Day on the rain date (I wasn't available)
- 4) Message from Facebook from Christopher Stetson Wilson - he was at the pond and park clearing fishing line from the trees and shore. He took photos and requested to have it posted on our Facebook page for awareness. - Input: Okay to post? He also offered to provide tips on preventing and clearing line. He asked about water clean-ups which we don't do (but maybe we can consider doing one if he wants to get involved?) He lives at the Spy Pond Condo. Jenny will ask him to be involved on our Work Days doing water cleanup along the park shoreline, if possible

Karen asked Jenny to see if we can put Christopher's name in our Mailchimp database; he can do the fishing line cleanup at least every Work Day. Jenny will ask if he needs more than one person. Karen noted that Parterre told Adrienne they could clean up in the water (Linwood Beach and area in the water).

Jenny and David Nejezhleba have done postings on Facebook & Instagram when appropriate, including Work Days.

Karen reported the 2025 Fun Day date on behalf of Betsy Leondar-Wright: Sept. 13 10 am-1pm (rain date Sept. 14, 1-4pm)

The Robbins Library display elicited some positive feedback and 2 sheets of new people who were interested in volunteering.

Anna Doctor has been working with Karen starting the end of April and on May 9 with Calvary Church's "Helping Hands" to complete the annual contribution solicitation.

Karen continues to post and interview for a General Vice-President and outreach help.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Jenny Babon will solicit Summer Newsletter contributions with a deadline of June 11.

**NEW BUSINESS AND NEXT MEETING DATES:** July 13 and Sept. 7, 5:00 PM Zoom TBA

Respectfully submitted,  
Megan Chrisman  
Recording Secretary