

**FRIENDS OF SPY POND PARK
MEETING MINUTES
June 7, 2020**

INTRODUCTIONS: Name, where you live and what you've enjoyed at the park lately, your status during Covid-19.

The meeting commenced at 7:00 pm. People reported on how they were coping with the shutdown and shelter in place.

Karen Grossman – is doing OK. Has been to the park lately and noticed that the lawn looks good where it had been damaged by vehicles doing repair, etc... Noticed there was a fair amount of trash, and lots of garbage in the trash cans.

Sally Hempstead – still getting out practically every day and taking walks in a different neighborhood somewhere. So, getting fresh air and exercise, as well as having interesting new experiences.

Marshall McCloskey – see above, Sally Hempstead. Doing OK, getting bored with the shutdown, personally.

Mithelish Sharma - has been at the park fairly frequently, has seen a lot of bicycles on the park path. Karen indicated that the town feels there are too many signs already re: posting additional signs against riding on the path.

Lally Stowell – has been in the park frequently. Has avoided it at times because of the number of people there. Has enjoyed it.

APRIL 26 MEETING MINUTES ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS

A link to the previous meeting minutes were attached to the recent mail chimp notice of this meeting. After some discussion as how to read them online for people who didn't get them from the link, a motion was made and they were accepted as submitted without additions or corrections.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Karen said Joanie Walls has indicated there are an additional ~\$1300 in dues in donations received. Karen is encouraged by the continuing support this shows for the park, even in these times. Joanie says the interest rates are currently not high enough to justify investing in a CD, but she will continue to monitor the situation.

The May solicitation went out as planned, thanks to volunteers who stuffed and addressed envelopes in batches of 100 each: Karen Grossman, Marshall McCloskey and Sally Hempstead, Lally Stowell, Bill Reardon, Bev Williams, Gerda Brown, and P.J. Gardner. Marshall discovered that the USPS charges a minimum of \$27 to process the mailing list address file for updates. He is comfortable with the processing Melissa Data does for us (\$40) and would like to continue with them. Those present agreed.

BEAUTIFICATION

Jenny Babon posted the Winter/Spring newsletter on the boards in the park near (Pond Lane) in Anne Ellinger's absence, and Karen put it up at Linwood St. Karen also resupplied membership brochures at both locations. She is continuing with Joe Connelly, who has returned as Arlington's Parks and Recreation Director, to request their helping with the cost of replacing the corkboards in the enclosed bulletin board at the end of Pond Lane. Lally suggested that we offer to share the cost, not necessarily specifying ½, which was agreed upon. The new overlook is complete and in use.

Karen cancelled the June workday listing on volunteermatch.org. We'll continue to discuss bulletin board repair with the Parks and Recreation Department. Lally again noted that having a workday requires quite a bit of handling tools and equipment, along with supervision and interaction with workers and visitors. It is necessary to clean and disinfect the tools and various equipment before storing them away, along with requirements for social distancing. She is not comfortable with the idea of a workday, yet.

Lally has inspected the small trenches along the fences to the planting beds and thinks they are holding up well. She and Julie McBride met one day at the park and discussed contacting a group to get together for maintenance of the cobblestones. Karen suggested that people could bring their own forks as the necessary tools. This was considered a feasible alternative.

Karen has been trying to set up a meeting for a walk through in the park with Emily Sullivan. Emily feels that it is important that all concerned be present and is looking forward to the time when that will be possible. Lally indicated that there is not a lot of new growth in the planting beds as yet and a lot of the plants have apparently not emerged. She says that a walk-through has to wait until further growth occurs, since the main purpose of it is to teach us how to continue maintaining the Spy Pond Edge Protection and Erosion Control Project. Lally indicated that there is a fair amount of invasive growth in the fenced off areas of the planting beds. None of it is presently accessible for work, so that will have to be put off until it is possible and approved. Karen added that the Town does not want us to be in the planting beds at all, because of the danger it would present to the new plantings as part of the Erosion Control Project. It was noted that invasive plant removal is likely to be a significant problem next year.

Those present decided that working on the cobblestones would not present much of a danger to the actual workers or to people walking through the park. Putting up the canopy will not be necessary, to avoid problems with social distancing, so no paper handling or Outreach will occur. There was some discussion of requirements for wearing masks, and consulting with the town Board of Health for guidelines. Karen noted that after Lally cleaned the storm drains on Linwood Street, they have remained clear. Lally does not want the job of cleaning them and feels we should determine the town's responsibility in this regard. She noted that the Town did apparently clean them recently. Karen said the Town is now going through and cleaning the catch basins.

Thanks to Adrienne Landry who borrowed our cart for her Weed-out Wednesday project on the bikepath in conjunction with Charlotte Milan of the DPW. Her volunteers were successful in removing Knotweed growth there that could migrate into the park's planting beds. Originally, when the Minuteman Trail opened, the FSPP had been designated to maintain the Trail from Kickstand Café area to Lake St. However, we haven't had the volunteers to enact those guidelines. Thanks also to Anne Ellinger who has been removing bags full of garlic mustard from the Trail for the DPW to remove from near our shed. The park looks beautiful with flowers blooming throughout.

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. However, the May solicitation mailing was done without the recent database app., so some people who should have been deleted from the list were included. Fred will make the new app. available to Daniel, Karen, and Marshall for future use.

OUTREACH

Jenny has obtained Elaine Crowder's listserv contact list, but she has not tried using it yet. She has posted some pictures on Facebook of the Spy Pond Park's new Pond Overlook that was completed in early March and submitted them for the FSPP Summer Newsletter publication. Access to the Overlook from the handicapped ramp apparently is not yet complete.

PARK ACTIVITIES

People want activities for people to do with their kids in the park for Fun Days the whole month of September. Betsy Leondar-Wright plans to create some Mystery Hunts that she'll present to the Park Commissioners for their approval. There is no chance to have our collaboration with the Arlington Land Trust this year due to Covid-19 restrictions.

COMMUNICATIONS

After some discussion, it was agreed that we have sufficient material to publish a 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. We will save some money since there will not be any hardcopy printing cost except for the laminated copies for bulletin board postings since distribution in the libraries or parks will be prohibited due to coronavirus restrictions.

Sally Hempstead set June 15 as the deadline for article submission for the FSPP Summer Newsletter. She will communicate with Robbins Library personnel when they reopen regarding our desired month for a 2021 library display.

NEW BUSINESS AND NEXT MEETING:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for **7:00 pm, Sunday, August 2, 2020**, on Zoom again.

Respectfully submitted,

Marshall McCloskey,

Recording Secretary

Karen L. Grossman's gave assistance viewing and augmenting the minutes for the last hour of the Zoom recording that didn't download to Marshall's computer.