

**FRIENDS OF SPY POND PARK
MEETING MINUTES
August 2, 2020**

The Zoom meeting started approximately at 7:00 pm and ended at 9:10 pm.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Karen Grossman – Karen has not been in the park much lately. She did see that the notices the Parks Department put up for social distancing re: the Workday were still attached to the tot lot fence. They need to be snipped off. She said the park looks nice, and she can see from her deck people enjoying wind surfing, boating and fishing on the pond.

Lally Stowell - did not receive the notice of the meeting. She is doing OK, school has eased up, she’s exercising online, walking and getting up to date on Zoom classes.

Jenny Babon - Jenny will remove the notices from the tot lot fence. She is spending a lot of time at the tot lot with her daughter and is glad to be back working in the lab in Cambridge commuting with little traffic.

Lori Tsuruda - lives in Randolph. Has just started resuming volunteer activities with People Making a Difference® (PMD) now that we’re in stage 3 of the reopening. She notices that people are not social distancing well. She is looking forward to the FSPP October Workday with her volunteer organization innovating as they go. They recently had a donation of spray disinfectant, so they have plenty of that on hand.

Marshall McCloskey/Sally Hempstead – doing their best to make the most out of the stay at home guidelines, going for walks, wearing masks, etc. Drove by the park last Saturday night about 6:30 pm. and noticed people in the tot lot and on the benches still enjoying the park.

JUNE 7, 2020 MINUTES ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS:

Karen expressed her hope that everyone had received a copy of the minutes that were a completed a little later than usual. Karen was able to share a copy of the last meeting’s minutes on the Zoom screen and also emailed Lally a copy for her review. Karen completed those minutes for Marshall since he had some difficulty transcribing them due to a sprained wrist and the downloaded meeting recording stopped working after 49 minutes. Karen was able to listen to the last hour or so of the original recording and finished the transcription.

A motion made to accept the minutes as submitted passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT WITH JUNE-AUGUST FINANCES:

Joanie Walls submitted the following report:

Friends of Spy Pond Park Treasurer's Report	
Sunday, August 2, 2020	
Checking - Citizens 8/2/2020	\$25,434.71
Book balance 4/28/2020	\$23,199.09
2020 Donations/Dues	2,475.00
U.S.P.S. Mailing Postage	(90.00)
2020 Dues Solicitation Mailing	(89.98)
2020 Printing & Laminating Summer Newsletter	(44.40)
Bank Balance 8/2/2020	\$25,449.71
Book Balance 8/2/2020	\$25,434.71

Deposit in Transit 8-2: \$15

Notes for 7-28

As of July 26th, all acknowledgement emails have been sent. Printed and need to mail out 11 May solicitation letters.

Notes for 8-2

2019 990 filed and 2018 990 refiled as it was lost in the mail. Recommend sending with tracking to anyone submitting

going forward. Debit Card obtained-card number to share with Fred Moses to separate FSPP website/software expenses from his other accounts. Interest rates are still bad for a CD. All acknowledgements have been emailed or mailed as needed.

Very busy with work if you need anything from Joanie, please allow notice of a couple business days. Working 55-60 hours a week and NOT checking emails after work. Please be on the lookout for a new Treasurer; Joanie doesn't really have the time or desire to continue being the Treasurer, but will stay until 12/31, if needed. After the meeting, Lori suggested that Karen post this volunteer opportunity on the MA Society of CPAs online bulletin board since PMD got a volunteer to handle their finances from a posting there.

Karen reported that we have received \$2,475 in dues/donations from the May solicitation so far. She will email a notice to our Mailchimp list describing the Treasurer's duties and soliciting a volunteer for the position.

BEAUTIFICATION:

Anne Ellinger posted the last newsletter on the park bulletin boards. Karen and Marshall were successful in getting the Town to agree to split the cost (approximately \$500 each) of replacing the cork bulletin boards on the locked board near the Pond Lane entrance to the park. They have been ordered, but have not been received, yet. The May and June Workdays were cancelled due to coronavirus concerns. However, July went very well with an all paperless online preregistration. About 30 people expressed interest. Joe Connelly, Director of Parks and Recreation, indicated it was not necessary to contact the Board of Health. He provided signs regarding social distancing and Karen hopes that we can put them on wire stands in the ground in the future rather than attach them to the tot lot fence. About 15 people showed up for the July Workday. We actually told a couple people to come in August due to distancing concerns. However, we will accept several more the next time. Karen agreed to do all the outreach for the next Workday to avoid confusion of two people (Lally and Karen) juggling the emails.

Lally reported that the Workday went very smoothly. She was the greeter sending people to Sharon Green and Julie McBride for task assignments and she also cleared the storm drains. Jenny Babon took some photos for the newsletter. Karen noticed on the photos that some people temporarily put soil cleared from between the cobblestones onto the pervious path. Since that could impede the effectiveness of the pervious path, Lally said she'd notify the Beautification Committee to watch for that next time. We have not yet received any feedback from Joe Connelly re: when and how frequently the Town will vacuum the path. Karen and Lally coordinated who should receive community service credit for volunteers registered on GiveBackTime.org. Workers stayed for about 2 hours. We already have 13 people interested in the August Workday, of whom 6 have sent in liability waivers. Lally suggested we limit responses to 35. Grooming the tot lot, clearing the storm drains, maintaining the trenches along the planting beds, and cleaning between the cobblestones will be tasks for that date.

Emily Sullivan said she'll try to set up a meeting before the September Workday with FSPP and the contractors re: what was planted and where. New plant growth is sparse to date. We need photos of the plants and need to know when we will be able to gain access to the planting beds. Lally indicated invasive growth is going wild with lots of bittersweet and knotweed. And trimming the saplings to provide a clear view of the pond, which Dick Norcross has done, is also important.

Karen wants to find out whether or not the temporary irrigation system installed by the contractor is still on, as well as the permanent irrigation system since grass in the park is browner than usual. She will check again with Joe Connelly and the DPW, if necessary.

Due to the fact that the bike path is not owned by the Town, but by the state, Adrienne Landry cannot plant anything along the path there, but is allowed to continue with the weed-out Wednesdays and work with the Calvary Church members who are helping her with this project. She is ridding the bike path embankment of invasive plants. However, it is our concern that enough plantings remain to hold the soil on the embankment. Karen will talk to Adrienne about her plans.

WEBSITE:

Daniel is keeping the database up to date. Fred has arranged with Go Daddy, our hosting service, to have our website separated from his other projects, migrating them to another server completely this week. Daniel and Julie will then be able to maintain our website and database separately. Julie has been updating the web pages. Lori Tsuruda uses GoDaddy for her website and says it is very easy to use. She says we could maybe use Microsoft Access for our database, as opposed to needing to hire someone to do it. Lori, with her experience for PMD, had much to offer in the way of suggestions in this regard.

OUTREACH:

Jenny Babon has been posting updates on Facebook using Karen's descriptions of FSPP's activities.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Sally can't get through to the library via phone calls or emails to make a reservation for the 2021 FSPP display at the Robbins Library. People apparently are not in their offices. The deadline for the Fall newsletter was set as October 15th

PARK ACTIVITIES:

Betsy Leonder-Wright, Karen Grossman, Anne Ellinger and others have been brainstorming for ideas for Fun Days in September. They have planned a history mysteries tour and a public art scavenger hunt with prizes and clues hidden and distributed in the park. Karen spent considerable time giving samples of the clues to those present, some of which people considered rather obscure. Karen will relay our comments for Betsy to consider some modifications. Since Betsy will be on vacation, Karen will make a presentation to the next Park Commissioners meeting on August 11th to request permission to hide things in the park. The plan is to have participants get a brochure on our website, Facebook, or at the bulletin boards in the park with parents helping younger children with the Public Art Hunt. The other, the History Mysteries Hunt, aimed more to high school students and adults, is based on the geocache concept done around the world. People will be directed to find clues in the park. It was suggested that Karen also have photos to show where the clues and prizes might be hidden when she presents the ideas to the Park Commission, giving them a clearer idea of what she is talking about.

NEW BUSINESS AND NEXT MEETING: 7:00 pm October 4, 2020 via Zoom

Respectfully submitted,
Marshall McCloskey
Recording Secretary