

FRIENDS OF SPY POND PARK MEETING

August 21, 2005

In attendance: Frances Cameron, Sarah Conn, John Gearin, Karen Grossman, Marilyn Hepner, Elizabeth Karpati, Betsy Leondar-Wright, Gail Leondar-Wright, Ellen Robertson, Cynthia Thompson. **Minutes:** Elizabeth Karpati

Next meeting: Sunday, September 18, 7 p.m., at Karen Grossman's, 12 Pond Lane.

Minutes: Approval of the June 5 minutes was deferred until the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report (Marilyn Hepner):

- 92 members have paid dues so far.
- Bank balance \$9,796.64 + CD \$1,781.25 = \$11,577.89.
- Total includes the following: \$1,893 collected for Enid's bench; \$888.75 left from last year's grant; \$882.05 from a Spy-Pond-related group which has disbanded.

Financial matters:

- Enid's bench is expected to cost much less; perhaps a tree to shade the bench could be bought from the surplus unless there is a nearby tree that will grow tall enough to shade it.
- The money from the grant must be used up by the end of this year, else it must be returned. If the Town won't buy the sprinklers and hoses necessary to irrigate the new plantings, this could be one use of the grant money. Ellen and Sarah will shop for other needed gardening items such as trowels and bulb planters. Betsy will check on the hoses and on whether we can get permission to go into the park before it opens to plant bulbs this fall.
- Karen checked with a lawyer who says there is no limit on the amount of unspent money a nonprofit can keep on hand. We are not legally required to have an official audit.
- John Jalbert, recreation director, has hired a dog service to chase Canada geese from the parks, and he wants contributions of \$2000 from the various Friends groups to keep this service going and to extend it by taking the dog out on the pond in a canoe. We are dubious: geese tend to go back to where they want to be as soon as the chasing stops. But we would consider contributing if a more effective geese deterrent can be found. (An anti-geese spray was mentioned but it needs repeated re-applications.) Marilyn will let John Jalbert know.

Park renovation update:

- No construction meetings were held during the summer; they will resume August 23.
- There are signs asking people not to enter the park until it is opened but they are not always observed.
- Enid's bench is in place near the end of Linwood Circle. Her birth and death dates should be included on the plaque. We plan unveil the plaque on the weekend near the anniversary of her death: Saturday, October 21, at 1 p.m. (rain date Sunday).
- The Park and Recreation Commission plans to decide on September 13 whether to reopen the park in the fall or next spring. We lean toward the spring. Several members plan to attend the P&R meeting.

Vision 2020 update:

- Weed treatment with "Sonar" was done in early June with a booster dose in July. By now pond water is again safe to use for irrigation.
- Arlington and Belmont have a joint grant for catchbasin improvements to keep sand from town streets from entering the big drain that also serves Rt. 2 and flows into Spy Pond near

Pleasant Street. If all the sand from the drain comes from Rt. 2, we will have a better case for going after MassHighway to get it to remove the sandbar that has built up there.

Newsletter:

- It was decided to publish the next issue before Town Day and print 600 copies to have extras for distribution at Town Day and later in the library. John Gearin has several articles already. Copy needs to go to the printer on September 3.
- Marilyn reported getting back from the Post Office at least 30 copies of the last newsletter that were mangled by sorting machinery because the edges were not taped together. The printer, who does the mailing, needs to be instructed to use tape dots on the next issue.

Organizational matters:

- Corresponding Secretary: Betsy keeps the database but Karen will help with needed correspondence such as thank-you letters.
- Phone committee: Ellen is the only volunteer so far and cannot do it alone. It would be best to have enough people so that each one would have only about 10 calls to make. The newsletter should include a call for volunteers.
- The question was raised whether a membership committee was appointed in December. *(The answer is NO.)*
- Karen has set up a Yahoo group for sending notices, minutes, etc. to all members.

Other:

- More volunteers are needed for Town Day, September 17.
- The Arlington Center for the Arts is planning an Asian arts festival next May and wants to end it with illuminated boats on Spy Pond. This should not interfere with the opening of the park if that takes place next spring. The opening festivities could be held in the daytime with the boats the same evening.