

FRIENDS OF SPY POND PARK MEETING

October 22, 2005

In attendance: Eric Baatz, Bill Eykamp, John Gearin, Karen Grossman, Marilyn Hepner, Elizabeth Karpati, Betsy Leondar-Wright, Fred Moses, Ellen Robertson, Jeff Thielman and Aidan.

The meeting was held following the dedication of Enid's bench overlooking Spy Pond.

The **minutes** of the September meeting were accepted.

Park Renovation Update:

- The last walk-through until next spring is scheduled for October 25. Things to check on: Shaded bench (see below). Who is responsible for removing debris from slope from bikepath to park. Signs directing bikers to access to bikepath so that they don't create eroding trails. Cars on Linwood Circle (now 2-hour parking is legal) spoil view.
- The maintenance plan will be delivered when the Town signs off on the completed project in the spring.
- The benches have now been installed. Someone has requested that there should be a bench in the shade. Lisa Reynolds should be consulted about the best location for such a bench.
- The bulletin board has been placed near the boat ramp, not at the playground. It is in a handy place for posting limitations on boating, and we have another bulletin board that can be installed at the playground.
- We want a sign that says "Spy Pond Park." We voted for a low wooden sign with gold lettering, placed among the plants at the center of Linwood Circle, using grant money if it fits under the grant's definition of "beautification" (Marilyn will check), else using FSPP funds. Ellen will present this proposal at the Park & Rec Commission's November meeting.
- CRJ has been working with Hardy School students on making signs about proper behavior in a park, including not feeding the geese, for posting on the fencing.
- Goose issues: Karen reported that John Jalbert has investigated other control methods but still favors using a dog, including taking the dog out in a canoe, but FSPP does not want to contribute financially to this. Ellen has talked to Kate Thompson of CRJ who recommends multiple methods including egg addling and fake coyotes. Ellen will check on the cost of a fake coyote and on whether it could be bought with grant money. A fake coyote would have to be moved with some frequency and is liable to get stolen unless it is chained to something. Ellen will check how often golf courses using coyotes move them. The question of buying coyotes was deferred to the next meeting.
- Karen reported that the Town will supply hoses and sprinklers for irrigation but we would have to move them. There may be a question of liability if we hired a student for the job.

Other matters:

- **Treasurer's Report:** Four new members and \$85 in contributions since the last report. Bank balance is \$9698 including the remaining grant money.
- Town Day was very successful. We made about \$300 selling T-shirts, and some new members signed up.
- Unfilled positions: We still have no phone committee to call members before meetings. Betsy pointed out that we need a big turnout only for certain occasions, e.g. advocacy or labor like bulb planting.
- **Newsletter:** Some copies of the last issue got torn up again because they were put in the wrong machine by the post office and/or because the sealing "dots" were on the wrong side in relation to the address and stamp. So the layout must be done with the address in the correct position and the person taking the newsletters to the post office must remind them not to use the wrong machine.
- **Website:** Eric may be willing to help with design; Karen will consult with him. The T-shirt art could be used to decorate the website.
- Bill Eykamp floated the idea of a **competition**, with a prize, for engineering schools to design a "robo-coyote" to chase geese. Enid would probably approve if we used leftover money collected for her bench for geese deterrence. Bill will check on how such contests are run.
- **Next meeting:** Annual meeting, Sunday, December 4, at Jefferson Cutter house if it is available. Potluck at 6, meeting at 7. Try to get Carol R. Johnson (or Kate Thompson) as keynote speaker, to talk about landscaping. Invite Don Vitters.