

FRIENDS OF SPY POND PARK MEETING

JULY 1, 2007

In attendance: Eric Baatz, Karen Grossman, Elizabeth Karpati, Betsy Leondar-Wright, Fred Moses, Gail Neff, Agnes O'Donnell, DP Powell, Nancy White.

Minutes: The June minutes were accepted with one correction: We would consider contributing to park maintenance for one weeding (\$2650), not one weeding + mulching.

Treasurer's report: As of June 30, CD = \$1986, checking account = \$8938.03.

Dues received in June from 15 people including two new members.

Donations \$155 + \$37 from a Belknap neighborhood tag sale.

At the June 30 park event Karen sold 3 T-shirts and got 3 new members and a \$5 donation.

T-shirts: Karen and Fred found a silk-screener who would do 200 for \$6 each, cheaper than Print Aspects, which subcontracts the job. We voted to spend \$1320 (\$6 x 200 + \$120 for setup), but not more than \$1500, for 200 T-shirts in the sizes we need. Karen will order.

Maintenance: Karen wrote an article for the *Advocate* about the park's maintenance needs. Karen will talk to Joe Connelly about having the grass mowed no shorter than 3".

Betsy noticed some blue paint on the rock steps near Linwood Circle, visible only from the water, as if someone had poured leftover paint into the water. [*Has been reported to DPW.*]

Friends of Parks meeting: Joe Connelly is planning a townwide letter in the fall explaining maintenance issues in all parks and requesting donations. There was discussion about letting donations be earmarked for a specific park – this may bring in more money but leave some parks shortchanged. A compromise would be to let people earmark half of their donations.

Joe got permission to take money left over from the renovations out of the capital budget and use it for maintenance, to pay PTS for taking care of the grass. He will ask for the same amount next year to be included in the maintenance budget.

Beautification: Two of the notebooks put out for "Love Letters to Spy Pond Park" on Saturday were retrieved but three that were left out for additional notes got rained on. Notebooks could be left out permanently in plastic envelopes but would be in danger from vandals or thieves. One could be left out as an experiment, and checked and new additions copied every few days.

Bulletin Board: Andrew and Eric plan to fix it up on 7/14 and then pick date to install it.

Coyote: Betsy has a couple of volunteers and will show them how to move the coyote, and is looking for more volunteers. It is easier to move the coyote from the water side.

Weeding and mulching: Carol Johnson came and showed a group of members what plants to leave in the beds along the shoreline and what to pull or prune. Some volunteers will do weeding in the next couple of weeks, then get mulch from DPW and spread it. Ellen has the list of people who participated in the fall bulb planting; they could be asked to help.

Park Activity June 30 was successful, with good weather.

Agnes served as coordinator since Anne Ellinger was away. She put up posters in East Arlington and the Center; some people mentioned coming after seeing the flyers.

Kathy M. did a leaf-art project for kids.

Betsy L-W, assisted by Gail L-W and Elizabeth, had a scavenger hunt for three levels: leaves for younger or older kids, and invasive plants for adults. About 40 kids participated.

Kids also picked up litter in lunch-size paper bags, about 15 bags. Six garbage bags full of weeds and invasives were collected. Artbeat and the Bookrack donated prizes and art supplies; Betsy will write thank-you notes and a letter to the *Advocate*.

Outreach is still a problem because of many missing or wrong phone numbers. Ellen has notes on results of phone calls.

Newsletter went out a week ago. The next one should go out before Town Day, should highlight the summer activities and the "Spy Pond Splash" planned for September 29.

Website: Fred is transferring the data from Betsy's database to an on-line database which will be easier to update and make it easier to get various lists. The website address is in the newsletter.

Mailing: Karen thanked Frances, Agnes, and Gail Neff for helping to mail out the newsletter. Eric has the post office regulations for bulk mail, will check on how long local delivery takes (we have only about 20 out-of-town addresses).

Bulk-mail stamp and printed-on permit cost the same, 15.5 cents ("return requested" feature would cost more). We could use the stamp on the dues mailing which goes out in an envelope. Permit must be printed along the open side of a folded newsletter to avoid having it mangled in the machine.

Decision on whether to go to bulk mailing will be made at the August meeting.

If we decide to go for it, the next newsletter should include a request for e-mail addresses from everybody for things like meeting notices because bulk mailing is likely to be too slow for those.

Next meeting: Sunday, August 19, 2007, 7:00 p.m., 32 Hamiton Road, # 402.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Karpati

P.S. Elizabeth will likely be away August 19; in that case someone will be needed to take minutes.