

In attendance: Eric Baatz, Eric Berger, Doris Birmingham, Karen Grossman, Elizabeth Karpati, Betsy Leondar-Wright, Ilsa Oliviera.

The September **minutes** were approved with one spelling correction (Walgreens).

Treasurer's report: After deposit to be made 10/6 the checking account will be \$9516.70; the CD is 1987.83. We have 105 dues-paying households, including 24 new ones; last year we had 119.

Town Day: We took in over \$200 with some new members and \$182 in T-shirt sales. Kathy Modigliani is stepping down as coordinator, so we need to recruit a new one at the annual meeting in January. Kathy has a to-do list. Doris and Ilsa may become co-chairs.

Park maintenance and beautification:

- Karen's proposal for planting **daylilies** inside the circular benches is now before Park & Rec.
- Karen met with the Town Engineer for a walk-through about **erosion and water puddling**. He says the problem shouldn't be solved by making water run into the pond. He will check the plans for the drain under the lawn about the persistent puddle in the lawn.
- The slope from Pond Lane was supposed to make the water run onto the grass but it runs down the handicapped ramp – can the slope be changed? The Conservation Commission has also been considering this problem and the muddy beach at Linwood. The landscape architect recommended pebbles and sand for the latter, but sand would just sink into the mud.
- The rest of the landscape architect's proposals, for new **plantings** where plants are now sparse, were accepted by the Con Com.
- Six teenagers have been recruited for **weeding** and have been shown what plants to pull and what to leave alone. They are supposed to call Karen, Uta, or Eric Berger before they start weeding so that their time spent working can be monitored.
- A weeding and planting day is planned for **October 18**, 2-5 p.m. Bill Eykamp and Eric Baatz will do pruning.
- **Mulching** this past spring did not keep weeds down. (Enough mulch to do that would also keep desirable plants from coming up.) Should we mulch again next spring? We need some expert advice about pros and cons.
- **Playground surface:** Doris asked the Friends groups at Robbins Farm Park and Waldo Park about replacement for the sand that attracts sand wasps. Both like wood chips. Any concrete under the playing surface should probably be broken up for safety reasons when the surface is changed. A covered sandbox could be provided, with a sign asking parents to replace the cover when they leave to avoid attracting sand wasps.

Other:

- **Possible grant application:** Previous NEGEF grant was for environmental education (some of it was used for weeding along the bike path). Could try asking for help with the proposed mural. Changing the slope from Pond Land would probably not qualify. Deadline is January.
- **Mural:** No news since last month. Anne would like some help with making contacts, e.g. going to the zoning board. Eric Berger is willing.
- **Newsletter:** Next issue is planned for November. Going to electronic distribution: if space allows, the postcard announcing the annual meeting could say that the newsletter will be e-mailed only except to households asking for a paper copy
- **Nominations** are needed for next year, especially for a co-president / future president and for (co)chair(s) for beautification. Also leaders for weeding and Town Day coordinator.

Next meeting: Sunday, November 2, 7 p.m. at 32 Hamilton Road, #401
Respectfully submitted, Elizabeth Karpati