

FRIENDS OF SPY POND PARK MEETING

September 13, 2009

In attendance: Eric Baatz, Karen Grossman, Elizabeth Karpati, Fred Moses.

The **minutes** of the August 9 meeting were accepted as presented.

Treasurer's report: The CD stands at \$2022.92 and the checkbook at \$9429.38 with a few bills yet to be paid. The reports due to the state and federal governments are in the works.

The **work/fun day** scheduled for yesterday had to be postponed to today because of rain, so participation was a little low, but three T-shirts were sold.

Path erosion: CRJ recommends changing the side paths, which get less use than the center path, to grassy berms. Karen has found a landscaper who could do it for about \$2200. But other parks have similar paths and similar erosion problems; Joe Connelly, DPW, and Park & Rec. must come to an agreement on what to do about all of them. DPW recommends using stone dust, which is less expensive than the material now on the paths, but erodes even faster; "ecostones" are more durable but more expensive. Park & Rec. will discuss the path problem at its meeting next Tuesday. A Harvard professor has suggested that his landscape design class could look at the erosion problem, but not until next spring.

Playground: A biologist told Karen that sand wasps don't tend to bite people, so the project to replace the sand may not be really necessary – but it is now going forward.

The two young men hired to do **wedding** this summer did a good job; they were paid about \$700. They are looking forward to working for us again next year.

Karen has had no reply yet from DPW about the **dead trees** (bottom half of an old willow which had its broken top removed, and a young tree killed by vandals).

Grant idea: The Arlington Center for the Arts could get an artist for educational activities in the Park if we could get a grant to pay for it – possibly from NEGEF, or the Arlington Cultural Council (deadline October 15).

The Town is undertaking a project to reduce **phragmites** around Spy Pond, and is asking abutters to contribute (suggested amount is \$100) via the waterbodies fund. There is no phragmites in the Park yet, but it is an aggressive spreader. We voted to contribute \$100.

The fall **newsletter** has gone out by e-mail. We have no e-mail address for about 24 people. They will be asked, by phone or postcard, to send us one or tell us if they don't have a computer.

The **annual meeting** will be held in January. Suggestions for a speaker: Kate Thompson, or someone from "Roots and Shoots."

Next meeting: 7 p.m. Sunday, October 4, 2009, 32 Hamilton Road, #402, Arlington, MA.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Karpati