

FRIENDS OF SPY POND PARK MEETING

FEBRUARY 6, 2011

In attendance: Karen Grossman, Sally Hempstead, Elizabeth Karpati, Betsy Leondar-Wright, Gail McCormick, Lally Stowell.

- The **minutes** of the annual meeting were accepted with several additions.

Treasurer's Report:

- YTD dues received \$90, donations \$435, net income \$341.
- CD balance \$3002.51, checking account balance \$9892.54.
- State sales tax exemption: Another organization was assigned the number that was supposed to be ours; the IRS is sending documentation to straighten this out, and our exemption will be backdated to the date of our application, November 2010.

Proposed dates for work days, rain dates, alternates:

Month	Work (Sat.)	Rain (Sun)	Alt. (Sat.)	Note
April	26, 1-4 pm	--	--	4/26 is BU Global Day of Service
May	14, 1-4 pm	15, 1-4 pm	21, 1-4	
June	11, 1-4 pm	12, 1-4 pm	18, 1-4	Children' activities
July	16, 10-1	17, 1-4 pm	--	
August	20, 10-1	21, 1-4 pm,	13, 10-1	(<i>sic</i> , alt. date before proposed date)
September	10, 1-4 pm	11, 1-4 pm	--	Children's activities
October	15, 1-4 pm	16, 1-4 pm	--	

- June work/activities day to coincide with celebration for Elizabeth Island, if possible
- July and August: Sat. a.m. because of summer heat, but Sun. p.m. because of church services.
- Dates will be sent to groups that may participate, e.g. churches, Scouts.
- Work will include weeding and cleanup but no mulching.

- Arlington Center for the Arts is planning a high school **arts contest** for environmental banners to be hung at the Boys & Girls Club. Karen has been asked by ACA to represent FSPP on the committee; Doris, who has an arts degree, may be asked to be one of the judges.

- **Poison ivy:** The Town is submitting a Notice of Intent to treat it on the bike path and the slope. The Town is also buying two **trees** to be planted near or in the playground to provide shade.

- **Path erosion:** The path at Linwood Circle has been paved with StaLok® but may not be sufficiently domed to shed water to the sides. It must be inspected by the supplier when the snow melts. Heimlich may do some surveying to estimate the cost of re-grading to lessen erosion elsewhere.

- The **rain garden** proposed for Magnolia Field won't work there because it is too low-lying. Spy Pond Park is being considered as an alternate site. Where – open slope from bike path near Linwood? How to keep kids from running into it – surround it with stones?

- Two **warrant articles** have been submitted, one mandating no wake and one requiring signs with this rule if the first article is passed. Vision 2020 has expressed concern that a no-wake rule would inhibit use of the pond and destroy the Arlington-Belmont high school rowing program, and that it would become a divisive issue like the off-leash proposal. We need to discuss this issue with Town Meeting members and others.

- **Spring newsletter:** deadline for material is March 6. Eric is maintaining the newsletter files for the Library and the Historical Society.
- **Website** should have links to Spy Pond Committee, Sustainable Arlington, and the Friends of Menotomy Rocks Park and Robbins Farm Park.
- **T-shirts:** We have 142 left but are low on youth extra-small and adult medium sizes. Setup costs are \$200 for a new supplier (the last one was unsatisfactory), so a small order would be uneconomical. Karen will check further on what we need; decision about reordering deferred until next meeting.
- **Park activities:** Betsy and Kathy Modigliani are looking for ideas for September for activities connected with the ecosystem. Suggestions: Find where different flowers are planted in the park –have lists and pictures available. Find invasive plants. Pick up litter and distinguish between recyclables and trash. New drawings to replace the signs on the fences that say “don’t walk on the grass.” Any additional ideas should be sent to Betsy or Kathy. High school students could be asked to help supervise the activities to get community service hours.
- **EcoFest** March 26 in Town Hall: FSPP can have a free table. Do we want to share it with another group, like Friends of Menotomy Rocks Park if they participate? We can display our work and activities dates, and if applicable, information about the rain garden and any Shakespeare in the Park performances. Cannot sell T-shirts, but we can display one with information about where it is available (work days, Town Day).
- Gail’s environmental **paintings** will be exhibited at Town Hall from late March to late May with a reception on April 1.

Next meeting: 7 p.m. Sunday, April 3, 2011, 32 Hamilton Road #402, Arlington, MA.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Karpati