

Friends of Spy Pond Park Meeting Minutes July 14, 2013

The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Karen Grossman, 32 Hamilton Road, Arlington, MA.

Present: Karen Grossman, Sally Hempstead, Elizabeth Karpati, Marshall McCloskey, Lally Stowell, and Beverly Williams. We all have enjoyed watching the children in the playground. One member commented on the beauty of a 4th of July picnic in the park and her family's appreciation of the way the park is being maintained.

Minutes of the May 5, 2013 board meeting were accepted as presented.

Treasurer's report: Marshall reported a balance in checking as of 30 June - \$15,674. All bills have been paid and contributions have been acknowledged. No more state or Federal filings until November. There are 102 paid members to date this year.

Beautification Committee:

- Bulletin boards are up to date and storage shed is fine and sturdy.
- Park maintenance. Lally reported that the committee walks through the park on Mondays before Work Days; she writes and distributes the list of tasks to each member. She assigned certain invasive species to each person, but most continued to work in one or two beds. Some ferns were transplanted to bare areas. Poison ivy on hillsides still a problem. Lally reported that we have done the best we could with a limited number of volunteers. Work Days since the last board meeting - May 11, June 8, July 13. The group People Making a Difference helped out on July 13th.

Are there other potential groups of volunteers? Lally has contacted the Scout groups. Betty will be asked to draft a letter to the Chamber of Commerce. Sally will put a note in the next newsletter asking readers to recommend their place of business or civic group for volunteering to help on our Work Days.

- Portable toilet: now locks, but sign indicating "vacant" or "occupied" is still missing. It does seem to be cleaned on a regular basis.

Our thanks to: DPW donated a cart for carrying the heavy plastic bags of invasive plants to near the shed to be picked up and burned rather than composted like regular yard waste that is left in brown bags near trash barrels in the park and composted in Lexington.

- Lally has cooperated with the Town and with other park representatives to coordinate a plan for removing invasive plants from home yards as well as public spaces and has helped draft a brochure to educate the public on how to handle these plants.

Arlington Conservation Commission: Karen, Lally, Betty A., and Elizabeth attended the July 11th meeting of the Commission, which is concerned about the health of Spy Pond. While they were alarmed at some of the bare planting beds early this spring, a later tour convinced them of the growth of perennials. What to do about the paths being made near the water is another of their concerns. The members expressed appreciation for the work of Friends of Spy Pond Park volunteers. They will be soliciting some landscape designers to make suggestions for how to enhance the planting beds to help water filtration into the pond.

Website is up to date. Fred took pictures of yesterday's Work Day and will post them on the website.

Outreach: Jacki Katzman is moving; Karen will post the position of Publicity Chair in the next newsletter. Town Day will be on September 21; Sally has registered us and Jason will help. Feast of the East went well, with many sign ups. Shakespeare in Spy Pond Field with Arlington's Children's Theater will be held next Sunday afternoon, July 21 with Karen, Marshall and Bev helping at the booth and volunteers baking "goodies" to sell. Proceeds go to Arlington Center for the Arts to support Shakespeare in the Park. Fun Day will be on September 7, and Betsy is lining up volunteers. Arlington Land Trust volunteers will take people out to Elizabeth Island using the Arlington-Belmont Crew Team's coaching motorboats.

Newsletter: Next year, print more summer newsletters, as they are given out at the events in the summer and early fall. Deadline for the Fall newsletter is September 20.

Next meetings: Board meeting - October 13, Annual Meeting-December 8. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Beverly E. Williams, Secretary