

FRIENDS OF SPY POND PARK  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Sunday, 7:00 p.m. February 7, 2016

PRESENT: Karen Grossman, Ruth Slotnick, Lally Stowell, Elizabeth Karpati, Elaine Crowder, Richard Norcross, Bev Williams

We have all enjoyed the beauty of the Park in the snow. Karen spotted 4 or 5 bald eagles on the ice and in the air!

MINUTES of the annual meeting on December 6, 2015 were APPROVED as circulated.

TREASURER: Marshall is away but sent a proposed 2016 budget, which was APPROVED. Also included on the agenda was the 2015 list of income and expenses. Thanks, Marshall! End of January checking account balance is \$19,250.00. He will apply for the indicia that will be printed on the 10" solicitation envelopes. As suggested, Marshall and Fred Moses have winnowed down the mailing list, removing everyone past five years who have not given nor participated. Five years will be the procedure for the future unless we need to change for some reason. There are still 1,000 names on the list.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE: Lally reported that she and the committee had met and made the following recommendations for Work Days. Lally has checked with other town events:

April 30\*, May 21, June 25, July 23, August 27, September 24 (Sept. 10 will be Fun Day), and October 22

\* Karen noted the need to clean up the park after the winter so the April date will be APRIL 2. APPROVED pending Lally's checking with Betty.

The Department of Public Works re-installed the concrete road barrier in front of the shed the beginning of January, an easy maneuver since it remained to the side of the gravel lot after last winter. It will protect the shed again this year from snowplow damage.

Service Berry bush - Karen will remind the Parks Department again to follow through having the bush that was broken replaced. We discussed watering. Karen will ask also for a watering funnel to be placed around the new bush. We will ask Wally Williams to water it, as needed.

SWAN SCULPTURE - The Parks Department does not want artists to be paid for art in the parks. However, artists may apply for grants to help with funding. Artists must apply to the Parks Commission for permanent placement; now the swan is temporary at Spy Pond. We are not paying for the sculpture, but Karen offered to assist with applying to have it become a permanent installation, if Kevin Duffy agrees.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT - Karen reported that she and several others walked the Pond and the Conservation Committee (ConCom) subcommittee has accepted Chester Engineers' proposal, one of two submitted. She had a copy for us to look at. The Conservation Commission must be the applicant for CPA funds; they will apply in the Open Space category. The proposal includes more than the erosion at the Spy Pond Park shoreline; it will include several spots owned by the town and will be a POND project. Some on the board wondered about funding for the entire project; Karen and the ConCom believe that if the proposal is approved, CPA funding for construction will follow. The Pond is an Arlington treasure. Thanks, Karen, for your work on this! The Conservation Commission will take the proposal, if approved by the CPC after submission on March 22, to the Board of Selectmen and it will go to Town Meeting with other projects for approval following that.

On February 4, Richard went to a conference entitled "Taking on Invasives" sponsored by the Walden Woods Project. He reported that we are doing well in our plantings. The speaker did suggest covering the dirt with small plants to keep invasive plants from spreading. Richard thanked Karen for alerting him to the conference.

WEBSITE: Fred Moses has uploaded 2015 pictures to the website gallery. We were encouraged to look at them and the latest newsletter, also online.

OUTREACH - Elaine asked all of us to forward e-addresses of organizations; she will send the FSPP publicity to them. We have been asked to cooperate with Arlington Public Art and Art Zone, from Mill Street through East Arlington, but our primary goal for volunteers that keeps us busy is park beautification. More information regarding those proposals will be available by spring.

Deadline for spring newsletter is MARCH 15. Please contact Sally Hempstead with any suggestions, articles, or photos. Other events for outreach include EcoFest on March 19th and Feast of the East on June 18th.

Elizabeth Karpati noted that this will be her last meeting before she moves to Maryland, where her sister and family is building an apartment for her over their garage. She has a good offer on her house already, a home Elizabeth and her mother moved into 40 years ago. We thanked Elizabeth for her faithful and talented assistance with Spy Pond Park over many years. She expressed her appreciation for the friendships and ability to assist in keeping the Park beautiful. Best wishes, Elizabeth. We'll keep in touch.

The meeting was adjourned 8:30 pm.

Next meeting at Karen's condo: 32 Hamilton Road #402, Arlington - APRIL 3, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Williams, Secretary