

FRIENDS OF SPY POND PARK
Minutes February 9, 2014

The meeting was held at the home of President Karen Grossman, 32 Hamilton Road #402. Present: Karen Grossman, Elaine Crowder (who kayaks on the pond), Marshall McCloskey, Lally Stowell, and Bev Williams. Elizabeth Karpati sprained her ankle and sent regrets. Sally Hempstead is away.

Karen called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. We were all glad to hear that the pond is getting good use these icy winter days: cross-country skiing, ice skating, playing hockey, sledding, and ice fishing.

Minutes: of the December 8, 2013 annual meeting were approved as circulated.

Treasurer's report: Marshall presented the 2013 annual report and the 2014 budget, noting that \$2500 had been allocated for new plantings. The checking account balance at the end of January was \$19,266.56. FSPP expenses since that date include \$213.70 for the winter newsletter and \$53.91 for web hosting. Marshall will contact other park organizations in town to see if they have suggestions for "green investments". He will also file the tax forms. The database is up to date. In 2013 FSPP had 120 members.

Beautification Committee: The swan sculpture is beginning to take shape; sculptor Kevin Duffy sent pictures of his progress.

Karen's meetings in the park with Conservation Commission have been snowed out; they hope to walk through the park in March with landscape architect Carol Johnson, who has offered her services pro bono. Suggestions for new plantings and erosion control will be made at that time.

Lally reported that the Beautification Committee met on January 30th and presented dates for Work Days with the rain dates the next date, Sun. 1-4 p.m.: April 19, 1-4 p.m., May 17, 1-4 p.m., June 14, 1-4 p.m. sculpture dedication (?), July 12, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., August 2, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., September 6, 1-4 p.m.-Fun Day, and October 18, 1-4 p.m.

Regrettably, we will have a Work Day the same day as the Spy Pond Trails group that works on the other side of Spy Pond. However, they meet in the morning and we meet in the afternoon. Elizabeth Karpati and Bill Eykamp are the only FSPP members involved in both Work Days, as far as we know.

Lally presented pictures of invasive plants she'll bring to guide workers on the Work Days. She will contact the groups who helped last year. We decided that trying to call all the volunteers was redundant since they receive the newsletter and an e-mail reminder. We will reconsider after the summer to see if calling makes a difference volunteer #s.

Gail will be asked to check on when the irrigation system will be turned on and ask about remedies for bushes to stop bicyclists from taking shortcuts into the park. We **voted** to ask the Town to remove the unusable water fountains. They cannot be fixed and we think their presence reflects negatively on FSPP since we cannot do anything about fixing it.

Portable toilet - Town has bids out for another, more reliable company to supply toilets this season. Joe Connelly will notify us of the cost that we will share with the crew team.

Fun Day: Erin and Jason Fliggburger notified Karen that they will Co-Chair Park Activities on Fun Day in September! They will use Betsy Leondar-Wright's timeline of tasks and a contact list of people who have been involved in leading activities in past years. Karen will be available too.

Publicity: Jacki Katzman will continue to send out publicity even though she has moved. However, since Jacki has resigned, Elaine Crowder said she would be Publicity Chair!

Karen attended a meeting with Joe Connelly with the Friends of Parks regarding a **gala** fundraising event. It would benefit all the parks in Arlington and is proposed to be at the reservoir on July 26th. Joe will seek approval by the Park Commissioners and the Board of Selectmen. Anyone interested in helping is encouraged to attend the next meeting on February 27th.

Website: Fred Moses has put 2013 photos in the gallery on the FSPP website. He will post the Work Day liability waiver, the minutes of the annual meeting and the 2014 Work Day Schedule.

Criteria for co-sponsoring events: Sally and Lally worked on a questionnaire/form to be filled out by any group asking us to co-sponsor an event they want to hold in Spy Pond Park. The questionnaire/form will be a useful beginning to a conversation between FSPP and representatives of that group. Karen will keep the forms in our files.

Spring newsletter: deadline will be mid-March. Library display will be in March of 2015. Sally will arrange for this when she returns from Florida the beginning of March.

Next meeting: April 6, 7 p.m. 32 Hamilton Road #402, Arlington, MA

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m. Respectfully submitted, Beverly E. Williams, Secretary