

FRIENDS OF SPY POND PARK

4/2/2017 Meeting Minutes

32 Hamilton Rd. Apt 402

Present: President, Karen Grossman, Lally Stowell, Sally Hempstead, Marshall McCloskey, Kate Webster, Cecille Platek, Daniel Lin, Sherry Zhang

Introductions: At 7:08 pm, Karen called the meeting to order. We mentioned any of our recent experiences and impressions thereof of the park. Karen, Sally and Lally confessed to not being in the park much recently, winter and all that. Marshall had a nice time recently with his and Sally's granddaughter at the park playground. New attendees: Kate Webster recently moved to Hamilton Rd. on the pond, saw our newsletter article about the duck raising a family on Gerda Brown's balcony, is interested in gardening, and decided to see what she might do to help. Cecille has been a member for a few years and thought she, too, might become more involved. Sherry and Dan are juniors at Lexington High School and are looking to help FSPP as a way to earn community service hours.

Minutes of the January 29, 2017 meeting were reviewed and accepted as presented. Karen noted that we have not been able to recruit a Recording Secretary as yet, and again, Bev Williams is sorely missed in that capacity. Perhaps someone needing community service hours could be recruited in this regard.

Treasurer: Our checking account current balance as of 3/31/17 is \$20,342.47. Recent debits include \$700 to the Town of Arlington for the Portable toilet rental (a 2016 expense) and \$321.20 for the Winter Newsletter & outdoor brochure holders. We got 4 additional responses to our November 2016 solicitation thru the end of March, as well as one new member sign up. The month of January saw an additional \$945 received in dues/donations from the November solicitation. These were not included in the year-end Treasurer's report for 2016; the 2016 portable toilet expense that was paid in February of 2017 wasn't either. Of the 65 members who responded to the November solicitation, 25 of them marked their donation as "dues" although they had already made a "dues" payment in 2016. These will be counted as donations rather than dues for 2016.

Website: As noted at our last meeting, access to the database from remote computers was lost in late October due to lack of support from the software provider/seller, making it difficult to update the database and get reports as required. We can now update it remotely and get several reports, such as member participation, dues/donations, current email addresses, etc. necessary for our smooth operation. (Fred Moses, our Webmaster, never lost access himself, and the database itself is/was intact.) Fred is continuing to add convenient new features as well. The database is currently up to date, and Deepak Bidwai has posted everything current to the webpage. We will need the database to do our annual May dues solicitation, which in fact must be completed by May 3rd, re: our current non-profit mailing permit.

Beautification: Our first 2017 work day (April 29) is fast approaching. Lally has lined up volunteers from BU (Boston University) part of their April Global days of Service, and SNHU (Southern New Hampshire University) to assist. For future work days, she hopes to get volunteers from Matignon Honor Society on May 20 (work day) or Wednesday May 31 (not yet decided), Arlington/Belmont Crew Team for August, and People Making a Difference® in October. She expects the people from the Zhen Ren Chuen Martial Arts School to also come to a couple of work days, but not sure which ones yet. It was mentioned that it would be good to possibly line up some businesses to participate in the Work Days.

The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) and the Board of Selectmen has approved the design project submitted for Spy Pond Shore Protection and Erosion Control re: getting Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds for the same. It has yet to be voted on at Town Meeting, but approval is fully expected. The year 2017 will be devoted to filing and obtaining necessary permits with the actual construction work scheduled for 2018. The Conservation Commission has made an additional grant request for path construction in the beds and educational signage (not covered by CPA funds).

As noted in our previous meeting's minutes, the enclosed bulletin board to the right of the boat ramp off the Pond Lane end of the park has been difficult to open and close for a while. The aluminum/cork bulletin boards are mounted in a separate steel frame. Marshall contacted the supplier of the boards, who no longer makes them as a standard product. They will supply custom boards (there appear to be 2 boards back to back) for an estimated cost of about \$1200. Marshall will do some further research before making any commitments. In the meantime, although somewhat bothersome, we can still access the boards, and perhaps some minor adjustments may solve the problem.

The portable toilet for the 2017 season was scheduled to be installed the beginning of April, but due to the recent rains and the wetness of the ground, will be installed later, by the first Work Day!! The Arlington/Belmont Crew Team, which also uses it, is already practicing.

Karen and Adria Arch consulted with the Parks Commission re: approving the juried competition for an artist to paint the bench in the tot lot. The competition was advertised, and 6 entries were submitted. Jon Marshall (Director of Parks and Recreation), Karen and Adria selected the winner who will paint the bench in the spring/summer with a dedication at Fun day.

Outreach: Sally explained some of the aspects of the outreach function for the benefit of our new attendees.

Elaine Crowder is continuing to implement publicity for FSPP via the Arlington Advocate, other list serves and media outlets. After a recent computer crash, she received an update re: the work day schedule and other FSPP planned activities.

Fun day is set for September 9, 10 am to 1 pm. Karen looked into having food trucks in the gravel parking lot on Pond Lane that day. This is a definite possibility, although it turns out that they would need to get permits from Arlington's Health Department. The Arlington Land Trust will be using the Arlington/Belmont Crew Team coaching boats and giving tours of Elizabeth Island again during Fun day, so the morning schedule works for everyone. Betsy Leander-Wright, who is in charge of Fun day, is never here in August, and we are still hoping to find her a Co-Chair, and/or ideally form a committee to assist her with planning and maintaining contact with the several groups she brings in to make the day a success. It was suggested that perhaps students needing community service hours might be a source of help. Sherry Zhang and Daniel Lin will be our liaisons for recruiting students from Lexington High School.

Karen arranged many of our 2016 photos from the park and Fred Moses uploaded them to the FSPP website photo gallery. Karen and Sally will go through those photos to pick out new ones for our display board. Fred will print the photos and Karen and Sally will update the display board for placement at the Robbins Library in July this year, use at Feast of the East, Town day, and other appropriate occasions.

Communications: Sally has set June 15 as the deadline for the Summer Newsletter articles. Karen mentioned that Jamie, who lays out the newsletter using an application called InDesign, does an extremely professional job. Karen has a volunteer who indicated interest in taking photos on work days in addition to Ram Subramaniam. Sherry is quite interested in photography, and might also be available. A problem with using photos in the newsletter or elsewhere is that we need to have people's signed permission to publish them, especially if children are involved. We cannot expect the photographer to get these signatures and identify the subjects, so we need another volunteer to accompany him/her to solicit the necessary documentation. Again, this might be a good opportunity for someone needing community service hours.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Next Meeting: Sunday, June 11 at 7 pm at Karen Grossman's: 32 Hamilton Rd, Unit 402, Arlington.

Respectfully submitted,
Marshall McCloskey