

FRIENDS OF SPY POND PARK 6/11/2017 Meeting Minutes

Present: Karen Grossman, President, Lally Stowell, Beautification Committee, Bithika Khargharia and Amar Chawla, (husband and wife), Marshall McCloskey, Treasurer, and Dick Norcross, Beautification Committee.

Introductions: At 7:10 pm, Karen called the meeting to order and asked those present to identify themselves and tell of their recent experiences in the park. Bithika and Amar recently moved to 34 Hamilton Rd and find the park a great resource for them and their child, and want to contribute to its upkeep. Karen noted that there was vandalism (the seat broken) on the bench near the tot play area. Bithika said she had noticed a group of boys in that area who had apparently been drinking about 8 pm 3 or 4 weeks ago. Lally said that she hadn't noticed the damage at her May 31 work day, so the vandalism was apparently done since then. Karen also noted that the paint on the bench near the boat ramp has largely flaked off, and will contact the town about improving it. Dick Norcross noted that some of the sprinklers need maintenance, some are flooding the path, and others are not aimed or working properly. Karen will follow up Lally's report of this to Jon Marshall, Arlington Parks and Recreation Director.

Minutes of the April 2, 2017 meeting, with Lally's corrections, were reviewed and accepted.

Treasurer: Our previous checking account balance on 3/31/17 was \$20,342.47. The current balance, 6/11/17, is \$21,322.56, for an increase of \$980.09. This increase is because of dues and donations received of \$1,700 from our May 2017 solicitation. We have had 68 responses as of May 31. There will, no doubt, be a few more. Against this, recent debits include:

- \$88.00 PO Box rental June 1, 2017 thru May 31, 2018 at the East Arlington Post Office
- \$95.96 letter printing for May 1 solicitation
- \$300.00 Post Office Advance Purchase Account needed for non-profit mailings. Current balance is \$358.80 **after** the \$113.13 deduction for postage for the May 1 mailing.
- \$230.95 Spring Newsletter printing
- 714.91 Total

Website: The database is currently up to date with respect to dues and donations, new members, Work Day contacts, street and email addresses. Karen has sent Deepak Bidwai a list of 5 items to post to the webpage and will also send the Summer 2017 Newsletter and the April 2 minutes soon.

As noted previously, access to the database from remote computers was lost in late October due to lack of support from the software provider/seller. Fred Moses, our web and IT master, has created an application to allow access to the database information, and is continuing to restore old features and to add convenient new features as well. The following issues are of concern:

- ❖ Adding "signed up in the park" and "cleanup participant" to involvement doesn't seem to always work.
- ❖ Put the **full date** in on "involvement", not just the year. And default to the current year, as is done for date joined. (It's inconvenient to have to scroll down to the year each time, and almost every entry for involvement would be for the current year.)
- ❖ add email and street address to the current text string search.
- ❖ Enable searching for members via "involvement" and "interest".
- ❖ Some people are supplying "others in your household" on their dues forms, but there's not a place to enter it like there was before.
- ❖ Create a "comment" field (a completely new feature) supporting a text box of perhaps 256 characters, to note people's particular interests not covered by current categories, or to note their own comments on their dues or app forms.

Beautification: Our first 2017 Work Day (April 29) was a great success. Betty lined up volunteers from BU (Boston University) as part of their April Global Days of Service, and Lally enlisted SNHU (Southern New Hampshire University), so much of the required spring cleanup of winter debris was accomplished. There were no groups scheduled for the Work Day on May 20; however, 10-15 volunteers showed up, among whom were 4

young guys who did great work. Lally ran a special Work Day on May 31 from 9-12 to involve 30 people from Matignon High for their school-wide day of service, doing spectacular work on the weeds between the cobblestones, and the trenches by the planting bed fence(s).

For future Work Days, she hopes to get volunteers from the 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. Spotify has been in touch with Lally in this regard, but they have made no definite arrangement, as yet.

The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) and the Board of Selectmen has approved the design project submitted for Spy Pond Shore Protection and Erosion Control Project re: getting Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds for the same. Town Meeting has approved \$552,000 for implementing the Spy Pond Park shoreline erosion plan. The year 2017 will be devoted to filing and obtaining necessary permits with the actual construction work scheduled for 2018. The Arlington Conservation Commission has obtained additional funds for maintenance of the paths and signage for The Spy Pond Trails and Access Project. This was due to being selected by the Commonwealth (EEA) for recommendation to the National Park Service to receive a \$40,000 Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant.

Karen noted that there is a lot of grass growing in the planting beds, along with other weeds and perhaps invasive plants that seem to be crowding the ferns and other desirable plants. This could be due to the abundance of rain we've had, but efforts must be maintained to keep ahead of it. Also, she noted that the DPW has planted 13 new trees in the Linwood Circle area of the park. The serviceberry bush the town planted recently does not look well. Dick Norcross suggested that the town tree consultant might be able to assist.

A motion was made by Dick Norcross to look into adding a bench or two to the area to the right of the boat ramp. It was unanimously approved. Dick also suggested looking into the possibility of having Kevin Duffy perhaps do another work of art for the park.

A new design for painting the bench in the tot lot was approved by Adria Arch, Karen and the Park Commissioners. This will add to the Park's inclusion in the Arlington Cultural District. Tony Vogel is painting the bench that will be dedicated on Fun day. We approved \$50 for artist supplies, and \$500 to the artist for painting it.

Marshall is continuing to investigate possible remedies for the enclosed bulletin board to the right of the boat ramp that has been difficult to open and close for a while. In the meantime, although somewhat bothersome, we can still access the boards.

Outreach: Elaine Crowder is continuing to implement publicity for FSPP via the Arlington Advocate, other list serves and media outlets.

Fun Day is set for September 9, 10 am-1 pm. Karen looked into having food trucks in the gravel parking lot on Pond Lane that day, but there are no takers. She found one with a day's fee of \$500 for the food truck to come. The Arlington Land Trust will be using the Arlington/Belmont Crew Team coaching boats and giving tours of Elizabeth Island again. Betsy Leander-Wright communicated the following information with regard to current plans:

- Marshall & Sally – set up and take down
- Art Beat will provide materials for a craft
- Habitat will provide bug catching from 10 to 12, but not if postponed to Sunday
- Tinkergarten – 2 people will probably come and lead an activity
- Lisa Reynolds and her daughter will do face painting
- Ram Subramanian will take photos; another person must get signed release forms & match them to photos.
- Lally will design and bring posters for putting on Mass Ave and also do a craft
- Volunteers willing to play any role: Judy Berman, Colin Blair, Bev Williams
- We can borrow Judy Weinberg's canopy if needed

Betsy is waiting to hear from Pinal re: poster and bark boats, Bill Eykamp, and Joe Burns from Kickstand Café, open mike for equipment and MC'ing.

Karen arranged and captioned many of our 2016 photos from the park and Fred Moses uploaded them to the FSPP website photo gallery. Karen and Sally picked some from the last 3 years, copied them at Walgreens, and updated the display board for use at Feast of the East, the Robbins Library display, Town Day, and other occasions.

Communications: Sally has set June 18 as the deadline for the Summer Newsletter articles and has procured several articles already. Karen has solicited a couple more and gotten photos to accompany them.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Next Meeting: Sunday, August 13 at 7 pm at Karen Grossman's: 32 Hamilton Rd, Unit 402, Arlington.

Respectfully submitted,
Marshall McCloskey