

**FRIENDS OF SPY POND PARK
MEETING MINUTES
August 12, 2018**

Present: Karen Grossman, President, Lally Stowell, Beautification Committee, Sally Hempstead, Communications & Outreach Committee Co-Chair, Marshall McCloskey, Recording Secretary

**INTRODUCTIONS and
PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS**

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm. After ascertaining that all present were aware of and had used the link to the previous meeting's minutes on Karen's MailChimp current meeting announcement, the first order of business taken up was to review the minutes of the June 3, 2018 meeting. (It seems, however, that the aforementioned link does not work on iPhones; it's necessary to use a computer.) The minutes were reviewed and accepted as published.

We moved immediately to a discussion re: facilitating the present and future meetings. Karen expressed her hope that all FSPP members, not just board members, feel free to express their opinions and contribute to decisions which are made regarding the Park. It is, of course, desirable to have a representative group vote on these decisions. Obviously, the board meetings provide a forum for this, however, not all present are necessarily concerned about all issues discussed. It was noted that people who want to attend only part of a meeting are more than welcome to come, but full meeting attendance is encouraged by each officer and committee member. Sally and Fred Moses (not present) suggested that non-controversial issues requiring a vote be sent to members in advance (email) for discussion and feedback. (This could encourage interested parties to attend the meeting.) We agreed that the Treasurer's report should also be sent in advance, and simply included in the meeting minutes after the Treasurer's overview. Karen noted that Beautification is at the heart of what we do and requires attention at every meeting.

Later on in the meeting it was remarked that the Park seems to be as lush and green as it's ever been. All agreed.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Joanie Walls did not attend the meeting due to a cold, but provided the following updates:

- 1) we now have a CD for \$10k. Sorry it took me so long to get that. It's with Wells Fargo and an interest rate of 2%.
- 2) Marshall stopped by and got me all setup with automated email donation acknowledgement letters. Will send these in a timely manner going forward.
- 3) Marshall emailed me what I need to automate envelopes and acknowledgements which need to be mailed so I can do those more easily and timely going forward.
- 4) we are up to date on all filings at this time.
- 5) submitted Mary Anna Foskett's matching contribution paperwork and we received the \$25 FM Global Foundation check last week in the mail. I sent Mary Anna an email thanking her for taking the time to fill out the paperwork and let her know we did receive the matching contribution.

Joanie submitted the following report for June 3, through August 12, 2018:

Friends of Spy Pond Park Treasurer's Report Sunday August 12, 2018			
CD - Wells Fargo - 8/10/18			\$ 10,000.00
Checking - Citizens 8/10/18			\$ 11,913.50
Total			\$ 21,913.50
Bank Balance 6/3/18			\$ 21,288.89
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2018 Donations/Dues (May solicitation)			\$ 1,180.00
T-Shirt Sales			-
Donated Ice Business Booklets Sales - Feast of The East			20.00
Miscellaneous Donations - Feast of The East			12.00
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2018 Summer Newsletters Printing & Laminating			(510.33)
2018 Town Day Application			(72.06)
Bank Service Charges			(5.00)
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Purchase of CD - 8/10			(10,000.00)
Book Balance			\$ 11,913.50

Bank Balance			\$ 11,913.50
difference			\$ -
Note: \$12 in T-Shirt sales to be deposited not included above			
from July work day.			

Karen noted that we **will** be called upon to provide the \$5000 this fall to the Planning Department that we approved for work to be done in the park, namely installing a pervious path. The Conservation Commission's grant sought from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Recreational Trails Grant was **not** approved and the Town will need to fund it. Jon Marshall will provide some funding from the ADA Fund for this purpose and we can apply for the same grant next year, too. Enough money for the main path is available since some aspects of the design were eliminated on Spring Valley Road. So, we approved to have our \$5,000 help fund the crew team's boat ramp extending from the entrance to the main path off Pond Lane going into the park.

BEAUTIFICATION:

Lally reported that a lot was accomplished on the June and July Work Days. In June, despite the bad weather, the cobblestones were cleared of debris, much weeding was done, and the bittersweet and honeysuckle invasive growth were removed or cut back. Dick Norcross has done an excellent job of clearing the hedges and growth along the shore, providing a good view of the pond. In July we had a good number of volunteers. Of special mention, Lauren and Suzanna Kopans cut back the Serviceberry bushes obstructing access on the path to the parking lot under the Pond Lane bike path bridge, as well as cleaning up all the silt in the basin covering the drain in the grass off the path near the handicapped ramp. An unexpected July Work Day treat was the donation of 6 pizzas by Aslan Zadeh, proprietor of Domino's Pizza in Arlington, a friend of Charles DeVirgilio, one of our regular workers. Hot, delicious, and enjoyed by all the workers. Lally and Marshall both sent him letters thanking him for his generosity. Adrienne Landry helped water the new tree plantings on the embankment with the help of 2 volunteer boys. Karen mentioned that the tree should not be watered with pond water for the next several days, due to a scheduled aquatic weed treatment on August 13.

Lally has had email correspondence with a Capital One respondent to volunteermatch.com and a few of the employees will be participating in our Work Days in the next 3 months. People Making a Difference® has confirmed their involvement in October.

She reported that 3 of the planting beds have poison ivy near their fences, so that trimming vegetation and weeding along them has been curtailed. The forsythia bushes in the park off Linden Street need to be trimmed, and the best time to do this was in question. We think that if they are trimmed in the fall, they will still bloom in the spring. Karen mentioned that Brad Barber has observed and pulled water chestnuts (an invasive plant) from Spy Pond. This could be a cause for some concern, as they can rapidly proliferate over an area.

The water fountains in the park are on. Teresa DeBenedictis conveyed to Karen that due to our alerting them of a problem with the irrigation system, the DPW has fixed the water sprinklers, directing the water in the proper direction(s), and at the proper scheduled times. The hazard noticed by Dick Norcross near the portajohn in the Pond Lane parking lot has been fixed by the town. Emily Snyder has gotten new people to help with the rain garden, and they were hard at work on it on the July Work Day (Anne Ellinger, et al). Per an action item from the previous meeting, Karen asked Lela Shepherd about putting up signs to protect the Engelmann's sedge e.g. from trampling, accidental uprooting as an invasive, etc. The Con Comm said NO, because they do not want to invite attention to we noted that there has been some confusion as to what exactly is in question here, the following photos are provided:



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Engelmann's sedge, *Carex engelmannii* – (above) **Not ours or to be confused** with Engelmann's **sage**, *Salvia engelmannii*, endemic to Texas, or with Engelmann's sedge, **Cyperus engelmannii** (on the right) **which is**, in fact, the species declared "threatened" in MA.

Also called Engelmann's Umbrella Sedge.

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WEBSITE and DATABASE: Fred Moses continues to support the FSPP website: website enhancement, maintaining links on the website, posting the minutes and newsletter, and generating interest list queries on the database via an app he created. He is currently interviewing companies or individuals that might be able to take on this responsibility.

Daniel Jalkut has been doing a good job of maintaining the database and has taken on the responsibility of updating our

Mail Chimp mailing list (for Newsletter, notices, etc.) and adding new subscribers identified by our outreach efforts. He also removes unsubscribers from the database if they don't have a street address. 32.2% of subscribers opened the FSPP Summer Newsletter and 8.1% clicked on an item within the issue.

OUTREACH:

Betsy Leondar-Wright provided the following update on Fun Day planning. There are a number of volunteer slots yet to be filled. The numbers in parentheses are used to total up the number of additional volunteers needed. We will solicit people at the upcoming Work Day. Comments from the group at the meeting are highlighted in **red**. The items with the most priority are flagged 1 and 2.

FUN DAY 2018

Saturday September 22 from 10 am to 1 pm (raindate Sunday 1-4)

Coordination – Betsy Leondar-Wright, betsy@classmatters.org, 781-648-0630

ACTIVITIES, VOLUNTEERS AND LOCATIONS:

Boat rides to island tours – Arlington Land Trust volunteers, crew team boat - Ann LeRoy and Peter Belknap pobelknap52@gmail.com (Boat ramp, wall along ramp)

Bark boats – Pinal Maniar and maybe Puneet, pinalmaniar@gmail.com, and Jill McArthur jillmcarthur28@gmail.com (On stone wall above wheelchair ramp)

Leaf prints with ArtBeat and FSPP materials – Lally Stowell and Sally Hempstead (on built-in picnic table closest to the boat ramp)

Large building disks - cecily@cecilymiller.com (towards middle of the park, on bike path side of path)
(These were used previously at an Art in the Park event.)

Dirt box for preschoolers – Puddlestompers, Sara Feit- sara@puddlestompers.com
Puddlestompers specializes in nature activities for kids.

Face painting – Lisa Reynolds and _____ (1 & 2) _____ (on table & 2 chairs under tree near tot lot fence)
PRIORITY 1 need additional skilled person for filling position

Puzzles and scavenger hunts – Betsy and Colin Blair colinblair@verizon.net, with Dick Norcross dispensing prizes (Betsy's plastic table, near fence)

Toddler table (leaf hunt, coloring) - _____ (3) _____ and _____ (4) _____ (volunteers needed!) (on built-in picnic table farther from Pond Lane)

The Leaf prints can be hung with clothespins on the fence to dry... (need clothespins – Karen?)
Also some additional helpers – high schoolers?

Performances (Mark Sandman and Joe Burns will rent generator and FSPP will reimburse 2 canopies beyond boat ramp – **we need to borrow or rent one** (Judy Weinberg judylynweinberg@gmail.com will provide one)

- Lokensgard Blechbaser Ensemble Brass Band 10:15ish - 10:45
- Charles DeVirgilio's students' martial arts demonstration - 10:45-11:15 - arlingtonfullcircle@gmail.com
- Aunt Mimi and The Harmonators – between 11:30 and 1 at their convenience

Set-up and clean-up – Marshall, Sally, Karen, Betsy and Hui Ren hr0connie@gmail.com

More help welcome – Can you arrive at 9? yes Stay until 2? yes

FSPF info table (canopy near boat ramp towards tot lot) –Marshall and anyone available

MyRWA info table and some science activity – Karen and Bill Eykamp (beyond boat ramp near stone wall?) – **Bill could help kids look at microorganisms in pond water if we can borrow a microscope that attaches to a laptop (any leads?); otherwise another science activity (ideas?)**

Cedrine from Hardy School may know someone...

MAYBE – not confirmed

Bug-catching – Audubon Habitat volunteers (not on raindate) – Roger Wrubel (needs help) is asking for volunteers<rwrubel@massaudubon.org> (on corner of same built-in picnic table as leaf prints)

Nature crowns, Tinkergarten – Lauren can't do it but is asking others (by rain garden)

PUBLICITY

Poster – Pinal Maniar will revise last year's design once all musicians are confirmed (hopefully about 3-4 weeks in advance)

Post poster around town – Lally and Betsy (Karen will add to a list of places Lally will send her of places she has put posters.)

Newspapers, cable TV, Arlington list _____

It would be nice to send grade school kids home with flyers announcing the Fun Day. Need permission of course from the school superintendent to give them out or post on the PTO websites for the Hardy and Thompson Schools.

Photography – Fred will take photos after 11:30; another photographer needed for morning _____ (5) _____

Volunteers needed to get people to sign consent forms for photos _____ (6 & 7) _____

PRIORITY 2 (Ram Subramanian is not available)

Some additional notes: Marshall and Sally have to confirm their availability on the date. Note that at least 7 more volunteers than already enlisted will be required.

COMMUNICATIONS: Sally Hempstead has set October 14 as the deadline for articles for the Fall/Winter 2018 Newsletter.

NEW BUSINESS AND NEXT MEETING:

October 14, 2018, 7 pm at Karen Grossman's condo, 32 Hamilton Road #402, Arlington, MA

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted 8/13/18,
Marshall McCloskey
Recording Secretary