

**FRIENDS OF SPY POND PARK**  
**2016 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**December 4, 2016**  
**Jefferson Cutter House, Arlington, MA**

Present: Karen Grossman, Colin Blair, Richard Norcross, Bill Eykamp, Wendy Seltzer, Wally Williams, Sally Hempstead, Betsy Leondar-Wright, Marshall McCloskey, Lally Stowell, Fred Moses, Patrice Robertie, and Beverly Williams.

After a delicious potluck supper beginning at 5 pm, at 6 pm Karen introduced our speaker, **new Director of Parks and Recreation for the Town of Arlington, JONATHAN MARSHALL.**

He asked us to introduce ourselves and tell of our connection to Spy Pond Park. Mr. Marshall noted that he had held the same job in Natick, his hometown, for twelve years: "There I knew everyone in town; here I knew no one." He is learning the jurisdictions for agencies in the town and getting acquainted with groups like ours. Mr. Marshall thanked us for keeping the park beautiful. Right now, his vision is to educate himself and to work toward stewarding our natural resources. Mr. Marshall noted that he has been President of Massachusetts Parks and Recreation, giving him a network "so that we don't always have to reinvent the wheel". He asked the group for input about Spy Pond Park and its needs for the future. Karen thanked Mr. Marshall and continued with the agenda for the Annual Meeting at 6:30 PM.

**OCTOBER 9, 2016 Meeting Minutes:** APPROVED as circulated.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Marshall McCloskey presented the financial report as of December 4<sup>th</sup> that will be updated at the end of the month and attached, listing 2016 expenses and a projected budget for 2107. Mailing newsletters can now be sent for 13 cents a copy. People on the mailing list receive a copy by e-mail, and paper copies are delivered to both the Robbins and Fox libraries. Assets as of today are \$19,682, and increase of \$864 from last year. The group thanked Marshall for his diligent care of our funds!

**BEAUTIFICATION:** Lally Stowell inventoried all the t-shirts and determined that we have enough to sell in 2017. She also took an inventory of all our tools and labeled them. THANKS, Lally! Lally and her Beautification Committee walked the park each month a few days before each Work Day, deciding on priorities for pruning and cutting the invasive plants. Many individuals and groups helped on Work Days, planting, trimming, removing trash, and cleaning between the cobblestones. They also cleaned out the shoreline leaves! The drought made it possible to gather debris, including much glass, from the shoreline. The Town planted new trees between Linwood Street and Scannell Field. Karen will investigate the irrigation system with Department of Parks and Rec.

Karen noted the DPW purchased a new serviceberry bush but since it wasn't healthy, they re-ordered another one that is thriving next to a bench along the path near Linwood Street. Town workers also trimmed the forsythia bushes near the bike path.

Karen also reported that the Swan Sculpture by KEVIN DUFFY, now a permanent part of the Park at Linwood Circle, has a new marker that we helped finance. THANKS, Kevin!

Karen related that the Conservation Commission is at the end of Phase 1 of the Edge Protection and Erosion Control Project. She thanked the FSPP members who attended the Conservation Commission meetings. The Commission will apply for "Open Space" CPA funds from the Community Preservation Committee for Phase 2 permitting and construction to protect the shoreline of Town owned properties. She passed out copies of the proposed design. There were some questions about the proposed paths through the beds. Construction is projected to begin in 2018.

Marshall has done research and discussed with Mr. Marshall on how to repair the locked bulletin board off Pond Lane. We may need to provide the funds to repair it.

**WEBSITE:** Fred Moses reported that access to the database is currently not possible and the company that built the software is out of business! With time, Fred will investigate other ways of accessing the database. Fred and Deepak Bidwai have posted photos, minutes, and newsletters. THANKS TO FRED AND DEEPAK!

**OUTREACH:** Elaine Crowder has done a fine job with publicity, including a flyer for Fun Day, a well-attended event with music and many activities. Betsy Leander-Wright, who is often away the end of the summer, has asked for a Co-Chair to assist with planning and executing the event next year. She will write an article regarding this request for the newsletter. The Arlington Land Trust gave tours to Elizabeth Island that day, too. THANKS TO BETSY and all who helped with Fun Day!

Sally Hempstead reported that we hope the FSPP will have a library display in 2017 that she and Karen will update. Sally organized booths for Town Day and Feast of the East, as well as collecting newsletters in binders for the Historical Society and the Robbins Library. Karen does outreach, also, at all of the Work Days. THANKS TO SALLY! And THANKS to all who work to make the newsletter professional and interesting!

Lally circulated the FSPP Memory Book that she keeps up to date with newspaper articles and photos.

#### **GOALS FOR 2017:**

1. More permanent trash barrels in the Park.
2. Volunteers to pick up trash between Work Days.
3. Need feedback on proposed paths and new fences in planting beds.
4. Sponsor a juried contest for a design for painting the bench in the playground. Coordinate this with Arlington Public Art Committee and the Park Commission and have the bench painted with a \$500 fee for the artist.

#### **SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR NEXT YEAR:**

**President** - Karen Grossman

**General Vice President** - Open

**Recording Secretary** - Open (Thanks to Bev Williams for her faithful service to FSPP; she's stepping down due to family illness)

**Treasurer and Membership Secretary** - Marshall McCloskey

**Vice Presidents for Communication & Outreach** - Sally Hempstead and Jamie Ciocco

**Publicity Chair** - Elaine Crowder

**Beautification Committee** - Lally Stowell, Betty Athanasoulas, Gail McCormick, Richard Norcross, Ruth Slotnick, and Beverly Williams

**Web Masters** - Fred Moses and Deepak Bidwai

**Co-Chair for Park Events** - Betsy Leondar-Wright   **Co-Chair** - Open

**Fundraising Chair** - Open

**Videographer and Photographer** - Ram Subranmanian

This slate was approved by acclamation, with a special thanks to our President, KAREN GROSSMAN!

**NEXT MEETING:** Sunday, January 29 7 PM, Karen Grossman's-32 Hamilton Road Unit #402, Arlington.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 PM with wishes for safe and happy holidays.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly E. Williams

Recording Secretary