

**FRIENDS OF SPY POND PARK
MINUTES OF MEETING
SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2019**

INTRODUCTIONS: The meeting was convened at 7:08 pm. Those present are encouraged to state their name, where they live (if new) and what they've enjoyed at the park lately.

- Karen Grossman, President, noted seeing more people in the park when she put the newsletters on the bulletin boards recently.
- Lally Stowell, Coordinator of the Beautification Committee, has not been at the park much lately, but looks forward to getting there more often as the weather improves.
- Sally Hempstead, Outreach and Communications Chair, remarked on how her son on a visit from down South was amazed at the peaceful, quiet rural nature of the park so close to downtown Arlington and to where she used to live.
- Marshall McCloskey, Recording Secretary and Beautification Committee, also noted how the park is coming alive again while assisting Karen with putting up the newsletters.
- Emily Sullivan, guest, came to report on progress on the Soil Erosion and Edge Protection Project, and the pervious path installation.
- Elaine Crowder, Publicity Chairperson, enjoys the park as always.
- Jenny Babon was at the park today with her husband and they enjoyed it.

JANUARY 27, 2019 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS:

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and accepted as written.

PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Emily Sullivan, Environmental Planner & Conservation Agent for the Town of Arlington, noted that she would be attending a pre-construction meeting on the upcoming Thursday. Construction will, hopefully, commence around April 15. The bank work and the path work will be done at the same time. The path through the park will be fenced off for some period of time. Playground access will remain, however. Work will start in the area off Linwood St. and progress up to Pond Lane. Emily will send out a flyer and ensure postings regarding park access. It was noted that the construction crews will not want to run over the new path with equipment while they are working on the banks to prevent soil erosion.

Karen noted that the cobblestones currently along the existing path will remain, as they are, in fact, embedded in concrete. There is little that could be done to prevent grass growing in the spaces between the cobblestones, so that will be an ongoing maintenance issue.

Elaine was concerned about the erosion that takes place on the wheelchair ramp after rain storms. Emily noted that this issue may not properly be part of the soil erosion and edge protection problem, and is not sure they will be able to include it. However, since the Spring Valley St. area is not being addressed at this time, it's possible there may be some available funds for it.

It was noted that the new pervious path will need to be cleaned with an industrial vacuum twice a year. The Town will be responsible (Public Works) for doing this. Sweeping the new path may be a requirement on some of our Work Days.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Joanie Walls submitted her report by email:

Low activity the past three months. 13 donations from the November solicitation and/or new dues donations. I'm sure things will pick up on the donations side of things after the May solicitation. Only expenses were for copying/printing Karen needed for the Winter/Spring newsletter and work day posters. I read the minutes for the last meeting and have no edits. I'm not sure if I can make the meeting on Sunday or not. I do need to complete the annual filing by May 15th and will be sure to get it to Karen to review before then. I will miss the first Work Day as I will be in Mexico that weekend.

Have taken the dogs for a walk by the park a couple different days this spring and picked up some trash which had been blowing around. Glad it's finally spring!

Friends of Spy Pond Park	
Treasurer's Report Sunday April 7, 2019	
CD with Accrued Interest - 4/5/19	\$ 10,052.40
Checking - Citizens 4/5/19	9,545.74
Total	\$ 19,598.14
Book balance 1/24/19	\$ 9,272.15
2019 Donations/Dues (Nov Solicitation) - 13	547.70
Winter/Spring Newsletter Printing	(266.61)
Bank Service Charges	(7.50)
Book Balance - 4/5/19	\$ 9,545.74
Bank Balance - 4/5/19	\$ 9,545.74

BEAUTIFICATION

As mentioned above, Karen posted the newsletters on the park bulletin boards. Marshall also helped, and is happy to report that the enclosed bulletin board at Pond Lane seems to be relatively easy to open and close now. Might be a function of the colder weather this time of year, but we'll see. The inside cork board may need replacing sometime. Figuring out how to do that will be a challenge... Karen has also enlisted some people to clean the storm drains at Pond Lane from leaves and debris, and noted that they were in fact clear the last time she looked. Jenny Babon helps with the drain near Belknap St, and Karen also has some people helping clear the drains on Linwood St. near the bike path.

Karen had discussions with a woman who thought she might bring her ice cream truck on Work Days. FSPP has no intentions of absorbing any costs in this respect, and it was not clear how this might stand with the proprietor of the truck.

OUTREACH

Elaine Crowder reported that gmail is sending her FSPP notices to spam folders, so individuals and organizations on her 20-org list (including businesses like Wicked Local that are hosted by gmail) are not reliably receiving notification. She only knows this because the hosted businesses send a bounce notice. Email to private gmail addresses on the list is quietly sent to spam without notification.

The email-marked-as-spam problem began about a year ago following a FSPP emailing and is affecting her ability to reliably contact people from her business account. She asked whether FSPP still has an active gmail account or google group that might be used to send notices to these organizations. If anyone has an idea how to get around this issue, we'd love to hear it.

We have not heard from the Hardy School regarding any planned science projects. Lally suggested that we not pursue it till we hear something from them.

Jenny Babon has access to Facebook and can perhaps be of significant help. Posting pictures of Work Days, the upcoming construction work in the park, various notices, slideshows, etc. are areas where she might contribute. She is also familiar with Instagram and Twitter. Exactly what we've been looking for! Sally and Karen will select new pictures for the website gallery, outreach display board and a possible Facebook picture gallery.

COMMUNICATIONS

Sally set the deadline for the summer newsletter for June 1.

WEBSITE

Marshall McCloskey tried to contact various organizations similar to ours to find out how they manage their website and database issues. He had very little success. Most organizations similar to ours do not have a webpage. The only organizations that responded were the Arlington Land Trust (ALT), and the Friends of Arlington Great Meadows (FoAGM). Thanks to Brian Rehrig of ALT, and David White of FoAGM for responding. ALT uses Microsoft Access for their database, and only keeps track of donations. FoAGM runs a pretty low tech operation. Their website is based on 20 year old Microsoft Front Page, they use Yahoo for their email list, don't keep a membership list, and ALT keeps track of their money and donors.

Fred Moses reported that his research indicates that hiring a company to maintain the FSPP webpage would cost on the order of \$200 to \$300/month. The lowest estimate he got was \$125/month. The website is hosted on godaddy.com. Estimates for donor management software (another issue) were on the order of \$99/month for up to 1000 records, and more for numbers of records beyond that. Fred suggested that the current website might possibly be migrated to WordPress.

Fortunately, before Fred fully retires from his responsibilities in this regard, he will add an interface to his web based front end to access his current stored procedures for particular existing database queries, as well as other queries he may add that are requested by users of the database. He also promised to provide thumb drives or other suitable media with all of his software on it, including the source code, for storage in a safe place in case of problems, and perhaps future development.

NEW BUSINESS AND NEXT MEETING:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 pm. The next meeting will be:

June 2, 2019, 7 pm at Karen Grossman's condo, 32 Hamilton Road #402, Arlington, MA