



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## Minutes of June 4, 2008

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE  
 730 Mass. Ave., Arlington, Ma. 02476  
 Wednesday, June 4, 2008  
 Amended, Corrected, Approved September 3, 2008  
 MINUTES

Present: Ann LeRoyer, Chair; Lisa Decker, David White, Patsy Kraemer, Joey Glushko, Elizabeth Karpati, Michelle Hassler

Absent: Leslie Mayer

Minutes – Patsy will do minutes for both May and June.

Lisa Decker reported that she and Leslie had met with Mia Lehrer, the original designer of the linear park concept. Mia was in Boston for a conference and agreed to meet with them. Mia gave them many good ideas for funding sources, esp. clean water avenues.

She recommended re-introducing the place to people through various projects. Mia will be teaching at Harvard this fall, 2008, and will be available to us for some continuing advice and guidance. Mia stressed the idea of involving students in this project. We might approach the SAVE group at the high school about this.

Open Space Plan:

Ann and Leslie went to the Selectmen's meeting on May 19, 2008, and presented the plan to them. The announcement cards that we had printed are being distributed throughout the community. The plan has been posted on the town's website by the webmaster. Ann also presented the report to Town Meeting on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

Town Inventory of undeveloped lots- Joey reviewed with Ann our discussion from the previous meeting about undeveloped lots. The Mugar property is the only property that is really viable for development. The linear park idea is the project that we really wanted to concentrate on. The committee discussed in particular the property along the brook that is owned by St. Agnes church. It would behoove us to talk with them about the idea of opening up the culverted brook. There has been some talk that they might be renovating that practice field in the future,.

Spy Pond Management Planning – Joey brought to the committee's attention that there is not a management plan for Spy Pond per se. There has been attention paid to the management of the play area and the walking path but not attention to the whole pond. Joey was suggesting that we might bring together the various groups who have a stake in the pond. She feels that there are divergent goals among the groups vis a vis the use of the pond area. The various stake holders include:

- Friends of Spy Pond Park
- Vision 2020 Spy Pond Committee
- Mystic River Watershed Group
- Boys and Girls Club
- Recreation Department
- Kelwyn Manor Group
- Spy Pond Condo Association
- Arlington Land Trust
- Mass. Audubon
- Conservation Commission
- Neighborhood Newsletter (Dick Terry)

Community Forum on Rain Gardens and Plant invasives – Patsy gave an overview of the plans for the Community Forum. There would be four forums over the course of the next year starting in November, 2008. The various topics would be invasives,

alternatives to lawns, water gardens and ecological plantings. There would also be a series of home/neighborhood meetings to follow-up on these ideas.

Mill Brook Corridor Park – Joey is working on the grant for conservation assistance for this project. The professional assistance from the National Park Service will help us develop the scope and feasibility of this corridor park. The committee discussed ideas for bringing attention to the area and public education about its history. There could be programming done at the reservoir, Schwamb Mill and Cooke's Hollow.

Miscellaneous Items:

Lisa asked why there is no shade at McClennen Park. She will approach the Redevelopment Board about this since they still have jurisdiction.

Patsy announced that the four planters at Broadway Plaza have been redesigned and replanted. This was a joint effort by the Arlington Garden Club and the Chamber of Commerce.

David mentioned that the trees at the reservoir look as though they're doing well.

Patsy announced that the island adoptions program has begun.

The committee discussed not having summer meetings this year. Joey may need help with some letters of support for the grant she's working on.

September would be our next meeting – September 3, 2008 – 7:30 pm.