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Open Space Committee Minutes 03/02/2005

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Corrected/Final MINUTES FOR MARCH 2, 2005

Present: Ann LeRoy, Roly Chaput, Teresa DeBenedictis, Joey Glushko, Elizabeth Karpati, Patsy Kraemer, Leslie Mayer, Adam Pachter, JoAnn Robinson, David White.

The meeting began at 7:45 and ended at 9:25.

Minutes: The minutes of the February meeting were accepted with one correction.

Management Plan for Town Hall Gardens:

- Plans for two parts of the historic Town Hall Gardens were discussed extensively with the help of JoAnn Robinson, Co-chair of the Historical Commission. Patsy Kraemer drafted the plan for the Winfield Robbins Memorial Garden; JoAnn reviewed it and contributed the plan for the Old Burying Ground, and also added the text of the preservation restriction agreement between the Commonwealth and the Town covering both areas.
- It was agreed that the plans could be streamlined with some of the valuable historical detail moved to an appendix, and that the original planting plans from the Olmsted redesign of the garden should be attached.
- David White suggested that a map of the plantings should be placed in the garden for visitors to see.

Other matters:

- Next steps: Discussion was deferred to a future meeting when plans for the major open spaces are nearer completion. The plans may well be too ambitious to be wholly feasible, given financial realities – they represent an ideal and can help to deduce likely consequences if needed maintenance and improvements are not done.
- The next meeting will deal with Mount Pleasant Cemetery and Meadowbrook Park. We want to invite John Sanchez, DPW, and Jim Dodge, tree warden; Teresa will ask them. Discussion should include how much can be done by volunteers such as Friends groups and what must be done by DPW.
- Rt. 2 project: Elizabeth reported on the Spy Pond Committee's plans for improvements to the path between Rt. 2 and the southern end of Spy Pond, which is owned by MassHighway and has not been maintained. Plans are for a work weekend on May 14-15 to remove invasive plants, cut a few vistas between path and pond, add some native plants, and repair and stabilize eroded trails worn by fishermen from the paved path to the water's edge, the latter with help from some trail-maintenance professionals from the Appalachian Mountain Club. Volunteers will be sought both from groups such as Scouts and the High School and from the community at large. Elizabeth asked for and received the Open Space Committee's endorsement for the project.
- Symmes: Roly reported that Lahey had received an extension to remain until April 15. Lahey must be off the property before it can be transferred to E.A. Fish. Lahey wants to stay in Arlington and is planning to move to a property on Broadway near Sunnyside. E.A. Fish is working with the neighborhood advisory committee on the latter's concerns. The Transportation Advisory Committee has been working on recommendations for traffic management in the area.
- Reservoir: Leslie reported that a contractor for the dam reinforcement project has been selected, for a reasonable price, and that the work would start soon and would not interfere with the summer swimming season. Now publicity will be needed to explain the project and the need to close part of the Reservoir area temporarily.
- Adopt-a-tree: The article in the *Arlington Advocate* was premature, since the details have not yet been fully worked out, and mixed up this project with the need to replace a number of trees that will have to be removed for the dam improvement project.
- Dog run: Leslie brought information describing Brookline's approach, which involves certain times set aside in different parks for dogs to run free instead of fenced areas dedicated to this purpose. The Park and Recreation Commission will hold a public hearing on this matter at 7 p.m. on April 11 in the Senior Center.