



Year In Review 2016
Brookline GreenSpace Alliance

GRASSROOTS SUPPORT FOR A GREEN COMMUNITY

Brookline GreenSpace Alliance continues to monitor the Town Parks budget to ensure level funding for the Division of Parks and Open Space. It is important to remain vigilant about maintenance while at the same time supporting sources for innovative approaches and needed updates to our facilities.

BGSA continues to submit comment letters for Town Warrant articles that positively or negatively impact open space in Brookline, including articles dealing with zoning by-laws, land acquisition and sustainability.

We appear before Selectmen's hearings and have submitted letters to the Selectmen and School Committee this past year.

We speak for the parks and the contribution of green space to the health and well-being of our community and its citizens.

We support environmental education for both adults and children.

The following pages are a summary of 2016 activities.





2016 started with a Town Tree Warden leads group on a winter tree identification walk as part of BGSA environmental learning program



BGSA provides services to Park Friends Groups. A meeting in February included a presentation by the Director of Parks and Open Space, Erin Gallentine.



At the BGSA Annual Meeting in April Eugene Benson, Executive Director, Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions, spoke of the importance of land protection in Article 97 of the Ma Constitution. The Alliance distributed T-shirts promoting Brookline parks.



BGSA participated in the Earth Day activities



BGSA led a spring bird walk with local birding expert.



BGSA provides financial support for transportation for Town Recreation Environmental Educator's Brookline School field trip program.



As fiscal agent for Friends of Larz Anderson Park, BGSA supported the temporary art installation at the Park. BGSA is also fiscal agent for Friends of Minot Rose Garden.



Part of our community outreach included participation in Brookline Day at Larz Anderson Park. It was an opportunity to share our passion for parks and open space. We also sponsored the Emerald Necklace Conservancy's Concerts in the Park at Allerton Overlook in Olmsted Park and the Park Department's An Evening with Skip Moskey, biographer of the Larz Andersons.



Brookline GreenSpace Alliance continued to offer its publication, PLACE. The spring 2016 issue dealt with an Article 97 update, and BGSA contribution to sculpture in the park, environmental education, and a tribute to Governor and Mrs. Dukakis.

The fall issue discussed rebirth of the Muddy River and court proceedings involved with Article 97. Archived issues of PLACE can be found on the publications page of the BGSA website.

GreenSpace Grove Donors



TREE

Dorothy Baldini in Memory
of Joanna Wexler
Brookline Neighborhood Alliance*
Abby & Peter Coffin
Anne Covert in Memory
of Edward Cutler
Gina Crandell & David Roochnik
Rene & Jeff Feuerman
Frances Shedd Fisher
Frances Shedd Fisher in Honor
of Jessica Fisher Willson
Friends of the Muddy River in
Memory of Isabella Callanan
Garden Club of Brookline
Garden Club of Brookline
Linda Leary
Hugh & Arlene Mattison
Harriet B. McGraw
Agnes Serenyi in Memory
of Peter Serenyi
Kireten Waerstad & Darmesh Shah
in Honor of Espen Waersted
Marilyn Ray Smith &
Charles Freifeld
Jean & Peter Stringham

BRANCH

Deborah & David Brooks in Honor
of Hugh & Arlene Mattison
Susan F. Martin in Memory
of William A. Martin
Deanne Morse
Byron & Kathleen Parrish
Diok & Lucy Robb
Bob & Patricia Schram
Mrs. William H. Sweet

TWIG

Jon Bernstein & Martina Albright
Rob Davey & Jennifer Jackson
John Dempsey & Mary Scott
Mary & Murray Dewart
Tina Feingold & Richard Mayo
Rosemary Battles Foy
Friends of the Minot Rose Garden
Klopfer Martin Design Group
Sean & Karen Lynn-Jones
Patricia Maher
Merelice
Nicola Mosoufo
Harold & Karen Petersen
Deborah & Vassilios Raptopoulos
in Honor of Ferris Hall
Martha Sibert
Peggy Ueda

LEAF

High Street Hill Association &
Friends of Leverett Pond
George & Sytke Humphrey
in Memory of Edith Sperber
Bill Schechter & Sandy Shea
Laura & Jake Walters
in Honor of Hugh Mattison

OTHER

Daniel & Joan Ferguson
Aleksandar Rajlic
John W. Sears
Cynthia Snow
Stanley & Diana Spiegel
Elizabeth Vizza

At the Grand Opening of Fisher Hill Reservoir Park we once again thanked the donors to the GreenSpace Grove and appeared as one of the speakers for the special event

Financial Report

BGSA is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

In fiscal year 2016, Brookline GreenSpace Alliance received \$41,305 and spent \$26,960. We are working to rebuild our reserve fund as we operate as an all-volunteer organization toward the goal of a strong non-profit organization into the future.

42% of the income came from memberships, 39% came from special event income, 14% from donations for organizations for which we act as fiscal agent (Friends of Minot Rose Garden, etc.), and 5% from other sources, including a sum from the Town of Brookline held in escrow for legal needs as they may arise for the Fisher Hill Conservation Restriction.

Programming at 43% was the largest expense; it included a donation to the Riverway planting honoring Michael and Kitty Dukakis, transportation for our Environmental Learning partnership with Brookline Recreation, and a contribution toward the Olmsted Park concert sponsored by the Emerald Necklace Conservancy. PLACE (22%), our semi-annual newsletter distributed to 1,800 residents, was the second greatest expense. Administrative expenses included insurance and fundraising. These percentages do not reflect the many hours of unpaid professional volunteer time donated by Board Members that contribute to Brookline GreenSpace Alliance operations and programming.

We thank all of our members throughout Brookline who annually support our work through donations, gifts and volunteerism and the support of our mission.

