

## THE OLD SCHWAMB MILL

17 Mill Lane • Arlington, Massachusetts 02476 • 781-643-0554 • [www.oldschwambmill.org](http://www.oldschwambmill.org)

December 3, 2018

Select Board  
c/o Marie Krepelka  
Arlington Town Hall  
730 Massachusetts Avenue  
Arlington, MA 02476

Dear Select Board Members,

I am writing to request that the green space located on the east side of Mill Lane in front of the Old Schwamb Mill be named Mill Pond Park, in honor of the late Patricia C. Fitzmaurice, preservationist and managing trustee of the Mill for over 30 years.

The directors of the Schwamb Mill Preservation Trust, Inc., are making this request in accordance with the suggestions made by Patricia Fitzmaurice's children. Two of these children, Christy Cunningham-Adams and Elizabeth Elliott, have worked closely with us on the proposal to name and dedicate the park as follows:

### **Mill Pond Park**

**Dedicated to Patricia C. Fitzmaurice whose foresight and swift action  
saved the Old Schwamb Mill for generations to come.**

The family and the Mill are prepared to cover the expense of any signage and markers.

Two letters of support are included from Arlington residents with long acquaintance with both Ms. Fitzmaurice and the Mill:

- Marjorie B. Cohn  
Carl A. Weyerhaeuser Curator of Prints, Emerita, Harvard Art Museums
- David W. Baldwin  
Past director, Schwamb Mill Preservation Trust, Inc.; past president, Arlington Historical Society; past member, Arlington Historical Commission

### **DIRECTORS OF THE SCHWAMB MILL PRESERVATION TRUST, INC.**

Dermot Whittaker, President	Janet O'Riordan, Vice President	Mark Spengler, Treasurer
Grace M. Dingee	Ann M. LeRoyer	Wayne A. Schwamb
Reed Snyder	Doreen F. Stevens	Robert B. Tanner

We believe that naming and dedicating the green space as proposed is appropriate for the following reasons:

- Ms. Fitzmaurice contributed tremendously to the historical and cultural legacy of Arlington through decades of work for the Mill, other historical properties, and the Arlington Garden Club.
- In the summer and fall of 1969, on learning that the Schwamb Mill was closing, she quickly organized the Schwamb Mill Preservation Trust and tirelessly raised awareness and financial support for preserving the Mill as a living-history museum. Her outreach included film, television, photography, newspapers, letter writing, and personal speaking. The goal was accomplished within seven months, in January 1970, when the Trust acquired the Mill from its then owner, the Larson companies.
- Her selfless work to preserve the Mill took many forms that benefited the town: providing space to working artists, offering classes in the arts by local crafts people, encouraging local businesses at the Mill (currently including the Shaker Workshops and Masterworks Conservation), and hosting clubs and professional groups in the Mill.
- She skillfully advised the developers of Watermill Place in their preservation of the nearby Barn and Dryhouse before these buildings were deeded to the Trust.
- She carefully preserved the Mill's interior, created educational programs for the schools, conducted teacher trainings in industrial history, documented Schwamb family and workers' histories through recorded interviews, and protected the Mill's business records as valuable archives.
- She made preservation of the frame-making craft and machinery priorities -- in the Trust's charter from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as well as in her training of wood turners over three decades.
- She energetically supported the transformation of the property around the Mill to residential and green space in the 1980s, when the town acquired the park in front of the Mill.
- The park itself is the site of the Mill's former mill pond and was a part of the mill privilege since colonial times. Ms. Fitzmaurice's daughter Christy Cunningham believes that connecting the Mill and its former pond site with the name Mill Pond Park would be the approach their mother would approve of.

The Old Schwamb Mill will begin celebrating its 50th anniversary as a museum in the coming year. Those who knew Patricia Fitzmaurice would agree that this is a well deserved recognition of her contributions to Arlington over a lifetime.

If we can be of assistance to the Select Board or the Committee on Memorials in this matter, please do not hesitate to call or email me.

Sincerely,



Dermot Whittaker

President, Schwamb Mill Preservation Trust, Inc.

m: 978-436-1936      e: [dw61@dermwhittaker.com](mailto:dw61@dermwhittaker.com)

**DIRECTORS OF THE SCHWAMB MILL PRESERVATION TRUST, INC.**

Dermot Whittaker, President	Janet O'Riordan, Vice President	Mark Spengler, Treasurer
Grace M. Dingee	Ann M. LeRoy	Wayne A. Schwamb
Reed Snyder	Doreen F. Stevens	Robert B. Tanner

Addenda:

- Letters of support
- Sketch of plans for placing the name on a stone visible from the sidewalk and for a memorial bench near the opposite eastern edge. These plan are provided by the children of Ms. Fitzmaurice. The family and the Mill would cover the expenses of these.

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**167 JASON STREET, ARLINGTON, MA 02476  
(781) 646-6192**

13 September 2018

Dermot Whittaker, President  
Schwamb Mill Preservation Trust, Inc.  
17 Mill Lane  
Arlington, MA 02476

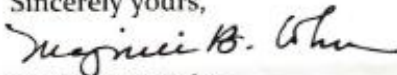
Dear Mr. Whittaker,

I am delighted to write in support of the proposal by the Schwamb Mill Preservation Trust, to name the park in front of the Mill Mill Pond Park and to dedicate the park in memory of Patricia Fitzmaurice.

Probably, while Old Schwamb Mill visitors understand that there must have been a pond somewhere, marking the spot is appropriate and useful. This simple naming opportunity, however, is nothing, in my mind at least, to our chance to make a permanent memorial to Pat Fitzmaurice. It was her imagination, persistence, and hard work over many years, both before and after she literally saved the Mill from the wrecker's ball, that turned it into the living museum of Arlington's industrial history which it remains to this day (and on into our future). The Mill is a unique national treasure, recognized by both the commonwealth and federal governments; without Pat's efforts it would have been gone many years past.

Another park is always welcome in Arlington. A park for Pat is what she deserves and what our posterity needs.

Sincerely yours,

  
Marjorie B. Cohn



David W. Baldwin  
49 Academy Street  
Arlington, Massachusetts 02476  
781-643-4833

10 October 2018

Mr. Dermot Whittaker, President  
Schwamb Mill Preservation Trust, Inc.  
17 Mill Lane  
Arlington, Massachusetts 02476

Dear Mr. Whittaker,

Patricia Fitzmaurice was a powerful advocate for historic preservation in Arlington, for many decades. She actively engaged on the Arlington Conservation Commission, the Arlington Historical Commission, the Arlington Historical Society, and the Schwamb Mill Preservation Trust. At the Schwamb Mill, she ran the day to day operations and provided its leadership for more than 30 years.

It was her inspiration that guided the small group of local preservationists to save the mill building, its machinery, and the business archives in 1969. It was her vision that preserved the outbuildings, the historic archaeology, and created open space where the mill pond had been.

Mrs. Fitzmaurice was instrumental in working with Arlington Town leadership to purchase the land and create the park beside the Schwamb Mill. It is fitting and proper that the space be called, "*Mill Pond Park*" and that it be, "*Dedicated to the memory of Patricia C. Fitzmaurice whose foresight and swift action saved the Old Schwamb Mill for generations to come.*"

I enthusiastically add my support to this effort. The dedication is a very appropriate acknowledgement to her contribution to historic preservation in Arlington.

Please let me know if you require further inputs.

Very sincerely,



David W. Baldwin



## MILL POND PARK

Dedicated to Patricia C. Fitzmaurice whose foresight and swift action saved the Old Schwamb Mill for generations to come.

In memory of Patricia C. Fitzmaurice,  
founder in 1969 of the Schwamb Mill Preservation Trust