

FRIENDS OF WORCESTER
JANUARY 21, 2003 - MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: Kim David, Wini & Rob Hayes, Dave Cardy, Susan Caughlan, Steve & Jenna Alpher, Maryellen & Ronald Shore, Mary Lou Crush, Clare Billett, Patti Loughridge & Barbara McMonagle

Location: Home of Charley Muir, 1901 Whitehall Road, Norristown, PA

Agenda Preview

FOW Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Balance as of 12/31/02 \$1017.52

President's Report: Frank Davey, Chairman of the Worcester Board of Supervisors announced several months ago a temporary suspension of the Open Space Program. While we recognize the importance of streamlining the process, we can not afford to wait. It's time to push our supervisors to get back to prioritizing the Open Space Program. *(Call them today at 610-584-1410. Let them know that you SUPPORT THE OPEN SPACE PROGRAM!!!)*

Membership Report: This month we have started emailing the minutes and agenda to members. Email us at info@friendsofworcester.org if you would like to be added to the list. Come to a meeting or let us hear from you through our website <http://www.friendsofworcester.org>. If you need more information or directions please contact Barb McMonagle 215-699-8225.

Fundraising Report: Anyone interested in becoming a sponsor for our Newsletter please contact Barb McMonagle 215-699-8225. We would like to thank HAYES, Inc. and HAYES Plus for sponsoring our current newsletter.

Worcester Township Meeting Reports:

Board of Supervisors: After being introduced by Frank Davey, John Harris, Open Space Coordinator announced that a private resident gave \$50,000 toward the Open Space Program. (FOW would like to thank this anonymous person for his dedication to preserving Open Space.)

Zoning Board: No Report

Planning Commission: Summit Realty, the builder for the CVS proposed at Germantown Pike and Trooper Roads, is going back to the drawing board. The current zoning limits the size of a building to 6,500 sq. ft. CVS has plans for a 13,000+ sq. ft. building. Besides the size of the building, other concerns include increased traffic, lighting, and 24 hour operation. *FOW is against CVS. This is why there are zoning codes – Let's enforce them!!!*

Gambone has presented plans under RPD (cluster housing with 30% open space) for 46 houses on the 95 acre Kumpf/Bell properties at Woodland & Trooper Roads. The Planning Commission is concerned about safety because of an entrance planned for Valley Forge Road. They would rather see the builder make improvements to the intersection at Valley Forge Road and Woodland Road instead. A conditional use permit will need to be obtained.

Joint Planning Commission/Board of Supervisors: No Meeting.

Current Issues

Open Space: Open Space Plan still on hold. It's been 5 months since it was announced that they were reorganizing the process. **Open Space = Money Saved\$\$\$**

CVS - A committee was formed to plan a strategy for fighting the CVS at Germantown Pike & Trooper Road. FOW will have signs made, distribute flyers, and activate our telephone chain to keep residents informed and urge their attendance at upcoming zoning meetings.

Smith Farm Market – The Smith's have proposed a Farm Market on Stump Hall Road near Hollow Road as part of their 120 acre property (formerly the Heebner Farm). Plans are for a 4000 sq. ft. two story building with parking for buses. Local residents have expressed concerns about a “commercial” use within a residential area, existing serious traffic problems which would be compounded by such a use, water impact on local wells, as well as sewage disposal. The Smith's will be applying for a conditional use permit at the Board of Supervisors meeting on March 19, 2003. FOW recommends residents attend and voice suggestions as to how to alleviate local residents' concerns.

Thompson/Scott – No new information.

Cedar Hill – The developer has decided not to connect to public water. Local residents are concerned about the impact of drilling new wells on surrounding wells.

Community Education

Newsletter - Draft of the newsletter was handed out. The newsletter committee will be getting together to proof read and make final changes.

Expand our efforts that Open Space Preservation = Lower Taxes

Website – Visit our website: <http://www.friendsofworchester.org>. Please come visit and leave your email address so we can email you the minutes. Also, please make suggestions and comments.

PA Act 167 - There are new regulations concerning storm water management. Worcester must comply. The township will need to modify current ordinances to deal with 1)restricting run off 2)impermeable surfaces and 3)detention basins. Developers can still develop sites but can not increase the net storm water run off.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Please Join Us By Attending Our Monthly Meetings.

February 18, 2003 – Tuesday 7:30 P.M. Home of Kim & Chris David, 1704 Berks Road, (610)584-1805

March 18, 2002 – Tuesday 7:30 P.M. Guest Speaker – Home of Ron & Maryellen Short, 3214 Stump Hall Road, (610)584-1835.

April 22, 2003 – Tuesday 7:30 P.M.- Home of Mike & Mary Lou Crush, 3103 Skippack Pike (610)584-0873.

May 20, 2003 – Tuesday 7:30 P.M. – Home of Jenna & Steve Alpher, 3026 Stump Hall Road (610)584-3337.

June 7, 2003 – Saturday 8:00 A.M. – Farmers Union Horse Show & FOW Flea Market, 610-489-7904.