

FRIENDS OF WORCESTER
FEBRUARY 18, 2003 - MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: Kim & Chris David, John Harris, Wini & Rob Hayes, Susan Caughlan, Charley Muir, Maryellen & Ronald Shore, Clare Billett, Jeannie Steigerwalt & Barbara McMonagle

Location: Home of Kim & Chris David, 1704 Berks Road, Norristown, PA

Agenda Preview

FOW Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Balance as of 2/18/03 \$767.52

President's Report: Sadly, John (Jack) Graham has passed away. He had been on the Worcester Township Board of Supervisors since 1987. The supervisors now need to appoint a replacement. Open space is dwindling. It is more important than ever to have representation which realizes the urgency to act now to preserve our township.

Last year the Pennsylvania Builders Association began lobbying legislators to eliminate laws established to prevent sprawl. Thanks to groups such as 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania, opposition to these bills has been defeated. (10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania will be the Guest Speaker at our meeting on Wednesday, April 23, 2003.)

Membership Report: We are 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 at 215-699-8225. We are in need of funds. The newsletter will deplete our current balance. If you haven't paid your dues lately, we need your help.

Worcester Township Meeting Reports:

Board of Supervisors: The conditional use hearing for Kumpf-Bell will be continued on March 19th.

Zoning Board: No Meeting

Planning Commission: The Montgomery County Planning Commission is now working with our Planning Commission to review the Worcester Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan is the single most important document used to send to DCNR (PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources) when applying for funding for open space.

A new set of plans for the CVS at Germantown Pike & Trooper Roads have been submitted. A full traffic study has been completed. The intersection is already rated D & F (A-Best F-Worst) without CVS.

Joint Planning Commission/Board of Supervisors: No Meeting

Current Issues

Open Space: The Supervisors have reinitiated the Open Space Program. John Harris is still working with landowners interested in preserving their properties. In order to set priorities of which properties to pursue, a list of the status of these properties has been sent to the Supervisors. Worcester is also renegotiating its contract with Ross Pilling who has been instrumental in obtaining financing and working with landowners.

CVS - FOW has distributed flyers against the CVS at Germantown Pike & Trooper Roads. We have also mailed this position paper to the Worcester Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, Solicitor, Zoning Hearing Board, and Township Manager Chuck Sardo. The new plans would need variances for double the square footage allowed, double the setbacks, additional residential land to be used as commercial, 32 lights, 10 signs, 24 hour operation and more. **Worcester has the right to require adherence to current zoning laws and not issue variances.** We will activate our telephone chain to keep residents informed and urge their attendance at upcoming zoning meetings. In the meantime, FOW has an online petition against CVS. Visit our website <http://www.friendsofworcester.org>, click on the CVS button and submit the petition.

Smith Farm Market – The Smith's will be applying for a conditional use permit for a proposed Farm Market on Stump Hall Road near Hollow Road 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 regarding existing traffic problems which would be increased by such a use, water impact on local wells, as well as sewage disposal.

Thompson/Scott – No new information.

Community Education

Newsletter - The newsletter will be mailed shortly. Thanks to the help of Rep. John Fichter, FOW was able to get a new mailing list and labels from Montgomery County free of charge. This has saved us over \$100.00. We have also applied to the Postal Service for non-profit status which will also save us \$\$\$ when sending Bulk Mail.

We are getting started on our next newsletter:

Real Estate Taxes vs. Open Space – John Harris

John "Jack" Graham – Jeannie

CVS - Kim

Farmers Union Horse Show & FOW Flea Market – Jeannie

Interview with John Harris – Barb & Kim

Photo Contest (Exemplifying the Natural Beauty of Worcester) – Jeannie & Wini

Expand our efforts that Open Space Preservation = Lower Taxes

Website – Visit our website: <http://www.friendsofworcester.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 - Nothing new.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Please Join Us By Attending Our Monthly Meetings.

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

April 23, 2003 (**New Date**) – Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Guest Speaker 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania - 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.