

**FRIENDS OF WORCESTER
MARCH 18, 2003 - MEETING MINUTES**

Attendees: John Harris, Rob Hayes, Marie Amato, Dave Cardy, Mike & Mary Lou Crush, Maryellen & Ronald Shore, Clare Billett, Jeannie Steigerwalt & Barbara McMonagle

Location: Home of Ronald & Maryellen Shore, 3214 Stump Hall Road, Collegeville, PA

Agenda Preview

FOW Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Balance as of 3/18/03 \$147.40

President's Report: 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania will be our Guest Speaker at 7:30 P.M. on Wednesday, April 23, 2003 at the home of Mike & Mary Lou Crush, 3103 Skippack Pike. **PLEASE COME!** Also, please note we have changed our May meeting to Monday 5/19/03 and it will be at the home of Jenna & Steve Alpher.

Community & Environmental Defense Services (CEDS) - www.ceds.org. can help people determine the impact of land development proposals. Their network of lawyers, environmental scientists and other experts can help defend poorly planned projects. Their advice and publications are free.

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. We are growing.

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 last newsletter has depleted our balance. If you haven't paid your dues lately, we need your help. We will be sending out another newsletter shortly.

Worcester Township Meeting Reports:

Board of Supervisors: The conditional use hearing for Kumpf-Bell cluster development with 47 lots will be continued on March 19th. Final approval for Volpe Roofing on Germantown Pike was adopted. State approval for the sewer project has been received. The next step will be bidding out contracts. Worcester now has a population of 7,785 and must meet PA solid waste regulations.

Zoning Board: Nothing relevant to FOW.

Planning Commission: A new set of plans for the CVS at Germantown Pike & Trooper Roads have been submitted. Bethel Knoll – 9 lots have been proposed on Bethel Road. Public water & sewer is available from Upper Gwynedd Sewer Authority. They will need a conditional use permit.

Joint Planning Commission/Board of Supervisors: Currently reviewing the Comprehensive Plan with Montgomery County. This should be completed within 1 year. Kumpf/Bell access onto Valley Forge Road is not supported by the Planning Commission. Their main entrance will be on Trooper Road. They are unable to put an entrance on Woodland due to wetlands. Open Space - currently in negotiations with Ross Pilling. BOS/PC agree buying development rights is the main way to preserve open space. With the state cutting back on funding, a bond issue would be an appropriate alternative.

Traffic Advisory Committee – Currently working with McMahan Associates to impose an impact fee on developers. Traffic studies have been completed. Improvements to bring all township intersections to a level of service D in 10 years has been suggested. The intersection at Valley Forge Road & Skippack Pike would need major change. The Planning Commission and many FOW members are completely opposed to the suggested changes at this intersection.

Current Issues

Open Space: Still negotiating our contract with Ross Pilling. John Harris will be meeting with BOS & Ross to prioritize properties to pursue.

CVS - FOW is putting up signs & has distributed flyers against the CVS at Germantown Pike & Trooper Roads. **Worcester has the right to require adherence to current zoning laws and not issue variances.** We will activate our telephone chain and email lists 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.friendsofworchester.org>, click on the CVS button and submit the petition. We have had a tremendous response on the website against CVS. Keep your comments coming!

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.

Schlosser/Van Grosie - American Infrastructure has an agreement for an additional property containing 16 acres. It will need to be rezoned if it is to become part of the Schlosser-VanGrosie age qualified retirement community proposed for North Wales Road and Township Line Road and will connect it to Whitehall Road.

Thompson/Scott – No new information.

Community Education

Primary - Tuesday, May 20, 2003 – Our Supervisors are currently waiting for the Primary to select the person to replace the late John Graham. Currently John Harris (endorsed by the Republican Committee) and Harris Gramm are candidates for Supervisor.

Worcester Historical Society – FOW was invited to speak at their meeting. Susan made a presentation regarding CVS. There was a lot of interest and opposition to CVS' plans to build at the corner of Germantown Pike and Trooper Rd.

Newsletter - We are getting started on our next newsletter: Deadline for Articles 4/15/03
“Saving Land Saves Money” – 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.friendsofworchester.org>. Please come visit and leave your email address so we can email you the minutes. Also, please make suggestions and comments.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Please Join Us By Attending Our Monthly Meetings.

April 23, 2003 – 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 19, 2003 (**New Date**) – Monday 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.