

**FRIENDS OF WORCESTER
OCTOBER 21, 2003 - MEETING MINUTES**

Attendees: Kim David, Rob Hayes, Susan Caughlan, Kay Lehman, Marie Amato, George Rogers, Jenna & Steve Alpher, Charley Muir & Barb McMonagle

Location: Home of Barbara & Michael McMonagle, 2242 Berks Road, Worcester, PA

Agenda Preview

FOW COMMITTEE REPORTS:

President's Report: Our newsletter is in the mail. I would like to give recognition for the effort that goes into our newsletter. From planning, editing, collating, folding, mailing, etc. – it is a real group endeavor. Thank you Rob & Wini for the use of your office and equipment again.

As our group grows, it is important to continue to reach out to other organizations in the community. In the past we have made presentations at the Worcester Historical Society and Meadowood. Recently, several FOW members attended a Republican fundraiser. Networking in this manner has value in getting out our message of preserving open space and interest in current local issues.

Treasurer's Report: No Report.

Membership Report: It is great to have members attend our meetings. Everyone is welcome. We are emailing the minutes and agenda to members. Email us at info@friendsofworchester.org if you would like to be added to the list.

Fundraising Report: Anyone interested in becoming a sponsor for our Newsletter please contact Barb McMonagle at 215-699-8225. This would be great exposure for a Worcester business. We mail our newsletter to everyone in the township.

Our annual membership fundraising letter is ready to be mailed. Please support FOW!

WORCESTER TOWNSHIP MEETING REPORTS:

Board of Supervisors: Made a change to the recent ordinance passed regarding Solid Waste Management and Recycling. We can not charge waste haulers a fee on each trash truck.

Zoning Board: Nothing relevant.

Joint Planning Commission/Board of Supervisors: Meet 4 times a year. No Meeting.

Planning Commission: Continuing to update the Worcester Comprehensive Plan.

CURRENT ISSUES

Open Space Program – The ballot question on November 4th will determine the future of Montgomery County's Open Space Program. Assuming the referendum passes (83.81% voted yes in Worcester), more money will be available. In order to receive any \$, we must update our Open Space Plan. We are already working with Montgomery County to review our Open Space Plan. This will create concrete ordinance

changes such as cluster development, stormwater management, and other zoning improvements. The public will have a chance to participate. The update of the Open Space Plan is paid for by the county.

The BOS may be interested in pursuing the purchase of development rights of smaller parcels not eligible for county funds with township funds. For example, Heyser Field behind the Worcester Township Community Hall could be forever preserved as a park in the Fairview Village area. We need to let the Supervisors know we support the use of township funds for this property and others.

Dubner (Fairview Auto)/Milner - We are excited to have an opportunity to work with a developer and give input before the plans are presented to the township. We have made some suggestions such as clustering stores in a village atmosphere. We are making progress slowly.

Greenway Plan – The draft plan was presented on October 22nd. We already have access to part of the proposed plan which runs along the Zacharias Creek from Heebner Park to Evansburg State Park. Some homeowners do not want the trail crossing their back yards and are suggesting it follow the PECO power lines instead. **Do we want our recreational trails under power lines???** Residents have until November 20th to voice their concerns and make suggestions. Please write Worcester Township at 1721 Valley Forge Road, P.O. Box 767, Worcester, PA 19490 or fax a statement to 610-584-8901.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Newsletter – Our newsletter is in the mail.

Election – FOW is promoting the Open Space Referendum. Vote YES on November 4th.

Partners for Land Preservation – FOW has joined Partners for Land Preservation. Susan Caughlan will be our representative. There are 3 meetings per year.

Conservation Easement Tax Bill - Two bills in Congress propose increasing the tax incentives for landowners that choose to put conservation easements on their properties by reducing capital gains tax and increasing deductions. For more information contact Senator Rick Santorum who is instrumental in this legislation at 202-224-6324 or emailed through the website <http://santorum.senate.gov/emailrjs.html>.

Website – Visit our website: <http://www.friendsofworchester.org>. Please come visit and leave your email address so we can email you the minutes. We are constantly updating the website with current information such as: meeting dates, events, newsletters & minutes.

Expand our efforts that Open Space Preservation = Lower Taxes

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Please Join Us By Attending Our Monthly Meetings & Events.

November 18, 2003, Tuesday 7:30 P.M. Home of Kim & Chris David, 1704 Berks Rd 610-584-1805

December 28, 2003, Sunday 5:00 P.M. Holiday Potluck Party at the Hayes', 3033 Fisher Rd 610-584-0371
Please RSVP by December 21st

January 13, 2004, Tuesday 7:30 P.M. Home of Jeannie & George Steigerwalt, 1028 Grange Ave 610-489-7904

February 10, 2004, Tuesday 7:30 P.M. Home of Wini & Rob Hayes, 3033 Fisher Rd 610-584-0371