

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

Attendees: Kim David, Chris David, Rob Hayes, Susan Caughlan, Lance Asher, Austin & Letty Schultz, Jenna & Steve Alpher, Charley Muir, Jeannie Steigerwalt, Kim McClintock & Barb McMonagle

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

Agenda Preview

FOW COMMITTEE REPORTS:

President's Report: The Open Space Referendum on November 4th was supported by voters 77% in Montgomery County and 83% in Worcester. Good job Worcester!!!

We received a note from Andrew & Melissa Smith of Willow Creek Orchards Farm thanking us for making everyone aware of their farm market in the last newsletter. They plan to actively farm 138 acres.

Treasurer's Report: \$4892.01 as of 11/30/03.

Membership Report: It is always great to have members attend our meetings. Everyone is welcome. 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.

Fundraising Report: We would like to thank everyone for their continued support of FOW. We are still receiving contributions from our last newsletter and annual membership fundraising letter. 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.

WORCESTER TOWNSHIP MEETING REPORTS:

Board of Supervisors: No major issues.

Zoning Board: Next meeting is 11/25/03. Several issues of concern to FOW. Alan Myers is presenting a plan for the corner of North Wales Road & Township Line Road for 3 buildings (2 with offices above), **He will need 12 variances.**

Also, Eckerd Drugs (the Milner property) at Germantown Pike & Valley Forge Road will need variances for a 9227 sq. ft. building and impervious coverage over the township limit.

Joint Planning Commission/Board of Supervisors: Meet 4 times a year. Next meeting December 8, 2003.

Planning Commission: Continuing to update the Worcester Comprehensive Plan. They have been presented a new sketch plan for Willow Creek Orchards. Kumpf/Bell is coming back for review.

CURRENT ISSUES

Open Space Program – We must update our Open Space Plan. There are great plans moving forward. A new idea is to cluster properties being preserved for wildlife, farmland, horse farms. We will continue the work John Harris started. Chained together smaller properties can be grouped together and still qualify

for county money. The Farmland Preservation acreage requirement has been reduced to 25 acres from 50 acres.

Dubner (Fairview Auto)/Milner - We have hit an stumbling block with the developer regarding the Milner property. He will be presenting plans to the township for an Eckerd Drug Store. We are still working with him on the Dubner property. FOW would like to give additional input before the plans are presented to the township.

Greenway Plan –Residents have until November 20th to voice their concerns and make suggestions on the draft plan for the trail system thru Worcester. Currently, the plan uses the PECO right of way. This draft needs to be revised from Heebner Park to Evansburg State Park with a focus on horse, walking, and biking trails.

Historic Building Preservation – Currently there is no Historic Preservation Ordinance. The first step is to create a list of historic properties in Worcester. How should we deal with all historic houses? How can we preserve them? Anyone interested in helping?

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Newsletter – Suggestions for our next newsletter:

Building Moratorium

President's Report Year End

Allen Myers/Dubner/Milner: Why do we have Zoning Ordinances?

Greenway Update

Heyser Field

FOW 2nd Annual Photo Contest

Sewer Update

We need your help. In an effort to save money we have been producing our own newsletter. If you would like to help with the printing, folding & labeling of our next newsletter, please contact Barb McMonagle at 215-699-8225.

Partners for Land Preservation – No Meeting. There are 3 meetings per year.

Conservation Easement Tax Bill - No news. 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.friendsofworcester.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.

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