

**FRIENDS OF WORCESTER  
MARCH 9, 2004 - MEETING MINUTES**

**Attendees:** Kim David, Rob Hayes, John Harris, Susan Caughlan, Charley Muir, Jeannie Steigerwalt, Marie Amato, Sylvia Schelly (Friends of Lower Providence), Mike Comroe (Friends of Lower Providence), Charley Muir & Barb McMonagle

**Location:** Bean Road Nursery, Whitehall Road & Bean Road, Worcester, PA

**Agenda Preview**

**FOW COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**President's Report:** A few members attended the public meeting to discuss Montgomery County's draft Transportation Plan. It was interesting to look at the county's plan and how Worcester would be affected by it. We looked at their recommendations and commented on what we approved or disapproved of in the entire county. This is where a few people can influence not only our township but the whole county.

**Treasurer's Report:** No Report

**Membership Report:** Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings. We are emailing the minutes and agenda to members. Email us at [info@friendsofworcester.org](mailto:info@friendsofworcester.org) if you would like to be added to the list.

**Fundraising Report:** Up and coming is the Farmer's Union Horse Show & Friends of Worcester Flea Market and Raffle on June 5<sup>th</sup>.

**WORCESTER TOWNSHIP MEETING REPORTS:**

**Board of Supervisors:**

Public Meeting – Initiated the Palmer & Schierenbeck properties in the Agricultural Security Act Program. Kumpf/Bell 47 lot subdivision received preliminary approval. Reserve at Center Point (Westrum) received conditional use approval. They have no sewer plan at current time. Willow Creek Farm received preliminary and final approval. Fairview Village - conversation about water & sewer – Can you put water & sewer lines in the same ditch when you hookup? The state & water company disagree.

Work Session – BOS gave approval for American Infrastructure (Schlosser/Van Grosie) to contact Whitpain Township regarding sewage from the site at Township Line & North Wales Roads. Scarlett property on Shearer Road has been permanently protected. Settlement was 2/20/04. Township will be leasing the house on the preserved Lenhart property. It consists of a house & barn on 10+ acres adjoining Heebner Park.

**Joint Planning Commission/Board of Supervisors:** Susan Caughlan, Open Space Coordinator, explained the new Montgomery County Open Space Program. There are different pockets of money this time – State Farmland Preservation Program; County Farmland Preservation Program; County Open Space Program for Municipalities; Private Organization Natural Resources/Heritage Area Program and DCNR Community Conservation Partnership Program Grants. There are many options in the new program. It's not just for farmland and open space. The PC is currently working on the Transportation section in our Comprehensive Plan. The county draft plan has Center Point (Valley Forge Rd. & Skippack Pike) and Fairview Village (Valley Forge Rd. & Germantown Pike) on their priority list. The PC would like to lower the profile in these areas. They are concerned that improvement of these areas will change their character. Discussed the Sign Ordinance – we are enforcing our current ordinance. Developers no longer have their signs everywhere. Discussed the Hugarin property on Windy Hill Rd. A 90 Day extension was granted.

**Zoning Board:** Nothing pertinent to FOW.

## **Planning Commission:**

Work Session – Presently working on Transportation section of the Comprehensive Plan. Want intersections to stay small.

Regular Meeting – County has given us permission to work on our Comprehensive Plan and Open Space Plans at the same time.

## **CURRENT ISSUES**

**Open Space Program** – The township’s Open Space Plan is ready to be revised. There are alternate ways to preserve Open Space. Looking at historic preservation options and easements for equestrian trails. The Open Space Committee will be holding a public meeting to discuss the plan. PC has recommended the Palmer & Schierenbeck properties be part of the Agricultural Security area. BOS need to approve it, then appraisals will be completed.

**Dubner (Fairview Auto)** – At FOW’s last meeting with Allen Kann of Baldrige Development Co., the plans were improved. The impervious coverage is still over 60% (the township limit of 50%). He will be going to the Planning Commission soon. It is costing him over \$2 million to clean up this property.

**Greenway Plan** - In final process.

**Worcester Historical Society** – Working to get Farmers Union Hall on Historic Register. Need to catalog their collection. Also, need to catalog the historic buildings in our township. Many are in the Worcester book, but not all. A Historic Building Ordinance is not being encouraged by the Board of Supervisors (BOS). BOS has been working with the developers on a case by case basis though they are open to suggestions. A Historic Building Ordinance would list houses, when built, when additions were added and the homes current owner. It could be used to stop road development later on – such as widening or slip ramp, etc. There would be more incentives to preserve the house or find alternatives to tearing it down such as Bed & Breakfast, Artist Studio, etc. WHS will have a website soon.

## **COMMUNITY EDUCATION**

**Newsletter** – In process, will be mailed early April.

**Road Show** – Is in development stage. Plan to bring why “Open Space Makes Sense” to the public.

**Partners for Land Preservation** – New opportunity to work with private non-profit groups we could partner with.

**Website** - Visit our website: <http://www.friendsofworcester.org>. Please leave your email address so we can email you the minutes. We are constantly updating the website with current information such as our meeting dates, events, newsletters & minutes. We have a new link to [www.FarmersUnionHorseCompany.org](http://www.FarmersUnionHorseCompany.org).

Expand our efforts that Open Space Preservation = Lower Taxes

## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

*Please Join Us By Attending Our Monthly Meetings & Events.*

April 14, 2004, Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Bean Road Nursery, Whitehall & Bean Roads, Worcester. For information call Host: Jeannie Stiegerwalt 610-489-7904.

May 18, 2004, Tuesday 7:30 P.M. Bean Road Nursery, Whitehall & Bean Roads, Worcester. For information call Host: Barb McMonagle 215-699-8225

June 5, 2004, Saturday 8 A.M. 64<sup>th</sup> Farmers Union Horse Show & FOW Flea Market and Raffle, Heyser Field (behind Worcester Township Community Hall), Fairview Village. For information call Marie Amato 610-630-0254.