

Friends of Worcester meeting minutes Meeting date: March 17, 2005

Present: Kim David, Doug Rotondo, Jeannie Steigerwalt, Marie Amato, Barbara McMonagle, Susan Caughlan

The minutes of the February meeting were approved as written and will be posted on the FOW website, www.friendsofworcester.org.

President's Report. Kim asked the group to recognize the contribution of Michael Libor, who takes care of mailing out the meeting minutes and agenda each month to our list of supporters who do not receive it via e-mail.

Contribution and Support. We are continuing to receive contributions from the annual appeal letter.

Fundraising/Hospitality. The Farmers Union Horse Show this year is Saturday, June 4. FOW will have a food tent as usual, and Barbara volunteered to coordinate this part of the event. The group authorized Barb to purchase a tent for events such as this. We will also have a community yard sale and raffle. Marie is the coordinator for these events.

Township Reports.

Board of Supervisors

1. Work Session, Mar. 7. The Board heard a presentation by two consultants from Natural Lands Trust regarding a possible grant to upgrade the township's stormwater management ordinances. No decision was made on whether to accept the grant proposal.

2. Public Meeting, Mar. 16. The township solicitor was authorized to oppose two ZHB applications, one regarding a garage and one regarding a request by a retail greenhouse operation to resume a nonconforming commercial use in a residential zone on Skippack Pike.

Informational item: The township ordinances are now on line and can be accessed via the township web site.

Planning Commission. The regular meeting was cancelled, but on March 11 several members of the PC traveled to Delaware Valley Community College to observe an installation of a drip irrigation system similar to that proposed for the Reserve at Center Point development.

Zoning Hearing Board. There was no ZHB meeting since the last FOW meeting.

Newsletter. The next newsletter is targeted for publication in April.

Outreach. Our spring outreach presentation is scheduled for Tuesday, March 29, at Meadowood. It will be a community-wide presentation.

We are gathering materials from area nonprofits to display on our information table at the WHS Annual Antique Show and Flea Market on Saturday, May 7.

The design for the new FOW button was reviewed and approved.

Current issues.

Open Space Initiatives. The Schierenbeck farm preservation application is still active with the county Open Space and Farm Boards.

Historic Protection. We discussed whether the old house on the Kumpf farm might be saved from demolition. The new road into the proposed development is supposed to run close to the house, but the house could be allowed to stay standing. The Pennsylvania Historic & Museum Commission indicated that if they had some additional information about the possible historic value of the house, they might be able to help us with preservation. Doug agreed to follow up on this.

Doug is in contact with the researcher who informed us about the Bunner-Sower house. They are working on proposed text for a monument that we have asked Eckerd to sponsor.

New Issues.

Tree Trimming. A letter was sent to PECO's vegetative maintenance supervisor, expressing our concern at the excessive trimming along township roads. Susan spoke with the contractor's supervisor about the Methacton oak, which he said had already been trimmed and is not directly under any power lines.

Zoning Hearing Board applications for 2004. Susan reviewed the 2004 ZHB applications, which are now posted on the township website. There were 31 applications heard in 2004. Nine concerned the construction of a second garage or a garage larger than allowed by the ordinance. All but one of these were approved. Fifteen applications were for variances to residential setbacks for additions, sheds, or fences/walls. All of these were approved. Of the seven miscellaneous applications, one for a variance to decrease the minimum lot size was denied, and one for a variance to convert a residence to an office use was denied.

FOW 2005 meeting dates: April 18 (Monday), May 24 (Tuesday). All meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. at Bean Road Nursery (corner of Bean & Whitehall Rds.)