

## **Friends of Worcester meeting minutes      Meeting date: April 18, 2005**

Present: Charley Muir, Doug Rotondo, Marie Amato, Rob Hayes, Kim David, Bill Fox, Wini Hayes, Barbara McMonagle, Susan Caughlan

The minutes of the March meeting were approved as written and will be posted on the FOW website, [www.friendsofworcester.org](http://www.friendsofworcester.org).

**President's Report.** In March, two Board members and our Administrative Assistant attended a workshop sponsored by MCLT on running a nonprofit organization. We discovered that FOW is functioning well as an organization. We also identified several organizational needs that we can now begin to address. The workshop gave us a good framework to look at FOW and evaluate how we are operating and where we can improve.

**Contribution and Support.** We discussed conducting a survey that would assess FOW's effectiveness and/or find out what township residents think about various open space issues. One question was whether to survey just our contributors or all township residents. Another issue was whether such a survey could be configured to allow people to respond via our website. Wini volunteered to develop some survey questions. One suggestion was for the survey questions to be designed to inform township residents of important issues and to provide a forum for discussion of these issues with our elected officials.

**Fundraising/Hospitality.** We will be advertising for vendors for the June 4 Horse Show on Comcast's local cable channels.

### **Township Reports.**

**Board of Supervisors Work Session.** The Board heard a report from Mr. Paone on his proposed development at North Wales Rd and Skippack Pike. They have purchased additional acreage and are now proposing 39 homes. The sketch plan is being reviewed by Natural Lands Trust under the Growing Greener standards.

Dr. Contorno presented his proposed zoning variance to expand his dental office in Fairview Village. He originally requested a 1700-sq foot expansion but agree to 961 sq feet, with a limitation on the number of dentists and no increase in parking. The BOS decided not to oppose the variance.

The Board heard a presentation on drip irrigation systems for the Westrum development on Trooper Rd. The BOS noted that the PC approved the drip system if it were moved from the woods to the open space. The township engineer suggested that the developer look at the feasibility of on-lot systems, since the township will not agree to be a party on the application to DEP for a drip system.

The BOS was asked to sign a resolution supporting the county's proposed Liberty Bell Trail route through Worcester along a portion of North Wales Rd. The Board indicated that they need more information from the county first.

Oliver Smith asked the Board to consider a bond issue to provide funding to secure open space before it is gone, as other municipalities have done.

**Planning Commission.** John Westrum, who is developing the Posen-Hitchens farm, is proposing a drip irrigation system to be installed in the existing mature woodlands on the property. The Planning Commission and township engineer observed a drip installation in a wooded area at Delaware Valley College. The PC members noted that there was no understory present in those woods. The PC expressed their concern with the destruction of woodland habitat as well as the long-term maintenance of a system installed in a woodland. The PC recommended that the supervisors approve this system only if it is not installed in the woods.

The Growing Greener committee recommended that our NLT planner present an update of the committee's work to the BOS.

Zoning Hearing Board. No report.

Newsletter. The newsletter will be mailed by the end of April.

Outreach. Our spring outreach presentation at Meadowood was quite a success, thanks to the very able assistance of Bill Fox of Meadowood. We also presented an abbreviated version of this program at a public meeting sponsored by Friends of Lower Providence.

We will have a full table of information flyers for FOW and other area nonprofits at our information table at the WHS Annual Antique Show and Flea Market on Saturday, May 7, at Community Hall.

We discussed the possibility of making an outreach presentation to the Worcester Historical Society and then partnering with WHS on a township-wide presentation.

**Current issues.**

Horse Show. Barb presented some options for a tent and was authorized to buy one so that we can have a place for people to sit, eat, and chat during the Horse Show. We will also be able to use it whenever we have an information table at other events.

School Board. Susan will use our e-mail contact list to inform residents of the upcoming school board informational meetings concerning the proposed new elementary school (April 27) and Act 72 funding (May 3).

Website Development. This will be discussed at our May meeting.

Open Space Plan. The Plan is on track for fall completion.

Township Open Space Initiatives. FOW's application for a matching grant to fund the preservation of the Schierenbeck farm is still before the county Open Space Board.

Administrative Assistant's Report: FOW sent a letter to Senator Santorum regarding the Joint Tax Committee's proposed changes in the charitable deduction for donations of conserved property. We have filed the forms to make our 501(c)(3) determination final.

**FOW 2005 meeting dates:** May 24 (Tuesday). Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. at Bean Road Nursery (corner of Bean & Whitehall Rds.)

**Saturday, June 4:** Join us at the FOW Food Tent and Community Yard Sale! To reserve a table for the community yard sale, call Marie at 610-630-0254. To help at the food tent, call Barb at 215-257-1436.