

Friends of Worcester meeting minutes Meeting date: May 24, 2005

Present: Charley Muir, Doug Rotondo, Marie Amato, George Rogers, Kim David, Susan Caughlan

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

President's Report. We are seeing the importance of reaching out to other organizations to connect on issues of common interest. Local nonprofit organizations and community-oriented for-profit businesses often share similar goals. We can work with groups such as the Worcester Township Historical Society, Meadowood, Peter Wentz Farmstead, and Friends of Lower Providence to realize our common goals. Toward that end, we discussed the possibility of having a joint Board meeting with the Historical Society to talk about issues of mutual interest, such as a historic preservation ordinance. Kim David will send a letter to WHS's President to suggest this.

Contribution and Support. There was no report.

Fundraising/Hospitality. At the Farmers Union Horse Show in June, we will have an information table with FOW's and other local organizations' literature, as well as smaller tables under a tent where people can eat and chat. We discussed whether our participation in the Horse Show should evolve from a flea market theme to a community fair, since other events on the same weekend seem to have taken a lot of the flea market business.

Township Reports.

Board of Supervisors: Nothing of significance to report.

Planning Commission. The April and May planning review meetings were cancelled. The Growing Greener committee continues to move forward with proposed revisions to the township's land development ordinances which would insure that open space and critical natural and cultural resources are preserved when a parcel is developed.

Zoning Hearing Board. For now, the Korean Church on Morris Road has withdrawn its application to allow the subdivision of 12 acres of its property. However, we expect that they may reinstate their request in the future.

Newsletter. Congratulations to Charley Muir and the Newsletter Committee on a great newsletter. Special thanks goes to Marie Amato for her continued efforts in working with the advertisers who support the cost of producing each newsletter.

Outreach. We discussed putting together a survey committee, conducting the survey in the fall, and reporting the results in our fall newsletter. Some suggestions for survey question topics were stormwater issues and rain barrel or rain garden workshops. The Outreach Committee will meet over the summer to work on the survey.

The Committee will also work on the fall outreach program. Friends of Lower Providence has suggested that we partner with them on an outreach program focusing on stormwater issues. The Committee will contact FLP to work on this.

Website Development. Several suggestions for web page additions were discussed. Susan Caughlan, Dave Cardy, and anyone else who is interested will meet to determine feasibility and priorities.

Current issues.

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

Township Open Space Initiatives. Nothing to report.

Administrative Assistant's Report: FOW's information table at the WHS Annual Flea Market On May 7 was very successful, with many people stopping to chat and pick up informational brochures. We now have a display board that showcases some FOW issues which can be used at these types of events and updated as needed

This month, approximately one dozen letters were mailed to local businesses, asking them to participate as corporate sponsors for FOW. It was suggested that we should target specific projects in these letters, to allow businesses to choose which project to sponsor and at what level to participate. We decided to see what response we receive to our initial letters and consider revising our strategy accordingly.

FOW 2005 meeting dates:

For the fall, we will meet on the second Wednesday evening of the month – September 14, October 12, and November 9. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. at Bean Road Nursery (corner of Bean & Whitehall Rds.)