

## **Friends of Worcester meeting minutes      Meeting date: February 8, 2006**

Present: Kim David, Jan Blegen, Rob Hayes, Ken Lord, Chris Lord, Wini Hayes, Barb McMonagle, Bill Fox, Charley Muir, Kris Bundschuh, Doug Rotondo, Susan Caughlan

The January meeting minutes were approved as written and will be posted at friendsoworcester.org.

**President's Report.** Kim David noted that the township seems to be moving forward on several issues that are of interest to FOW, including Growing Greener ordinances and a historic preservation committee.

**Contribution and Support.** Barb McMonagle reported a very positive response so far to our annual fundraising letter.

**Fundraising/Hospitality.** No report.

### **Township Reports.**

Board of Supervisors. No meetings were held since the last report.

Planning Commission. Two small subdivisions were accepted for review (Heck II/Wentz Church Rd and Zaveta II/Hollow Rd, 1 lot). Four small subdivisions were reviewed (Sparango/Bethel Rd, 4 lots; Kneeland/Skipack Pike, 2 lots; Evans/Meadow View Ln, 4 lots; Zaveta II/Hollow Rd, 1 lot). All were recommended for approval, some with conditions.

Zoning Hearing Board. The December ZHB meeting was cancelled.

Joint Meeting. The next Joint Meeting of the PC and BOS is scheduled for March 6.

**Newsletter.** The spring newsletter is targeted for mailing in late April. Article topics will include the President's Report for 2005, stormwater workshop, Growing Greener, dedicated open space funding source, a report on the recently formed township Historic Preservation Committee, village commercial ordinances, the Horse Show & Photo Contest, a website update, and the web-based survey. Articles are due to Rob Hayes by April 5.

**Outreach.** We discussed the spring outreach program, which will focus on stormwater management from a homeowner's perspective. The Outreach Committee will meet on March 13 to plan the program. Friends of Lower Providence has proposed that we work together on a program to be given in both communities. We will invite their representative to the planning meeting.

We discussed the format and questions for a web-based survey. Susan presented draft topic areas and questions for discussion. Bill Fox, Ken Lord, Chris Lord, and Jan Blegen volunteered to work on developing proposed survey questions to bring to the next meeting.

**Website Development.** The land developments page is now up and running. While it's disturbing to see the amount of development in the township, the page presents valuable information. Susan and Bill will continue to add smaller land developments, and the page will be continually updated as the information and status on each development change.

### **Current issues.**

Open Space initiatives. Two Worcester farms were among the seven applicants for 2006 in the county farmland preservation program. There are now 47 applicants to the program. Five Worcester farms are among the 10 top-ranked farms. County funding of \$4.2 million was approved for 2006. The announcement of matching state funds will be made in the next several weeks.

Demolition; Historic preservation. The township Historic Preservation Committee is expected to start meeting in the next few weeks.

Growing Greener ordinances. Barb McMonagle thanked everyone who made phone calls asking FOW supporters to attend the Jan. 31 township informational meeting on the Growing Greener ordinances. Everyone who made calls commented on the residents' interest in the ordinances and on their positive response to FOW. The turnout at the Jan. 31 meeting was impressive, and the Board of Supervisors was pleased that so many residents were interested in the proposed ordinances.

We discussed how best to publicize the next two BOS meetings. The supervisors will take comments on the ordinances at the Feb. 15 meeting and will hold a public hearing on the ordinances at the March 15 meeting. We will modify our website to have more comprehensive coverage of the ordinances and to ask residents to attend these two meetings and offer comments in support of the ordinances. We will also post flyers around the township asking residents to attend these meetings. It was suggested that we need a link on our website to allow residents to e-mail their comments to FOW, if they cannot attend the meetings. This will be done.

Open Space Plan. Susan reported that the OS Plan is almost completed and there will be a public presentation of the plan in the next few months.

White Paper on Open Space. The Board asked Susan to prepare a summary of land preservation strategies and funding sources.

Administrative Assistant's Report. Susan worked on the fundraising letter, continued to work on the land developments website page, and drafted preliminary topic areas and questions for the web-based survey.

#### **New Business**

1. FOW will once again have an information table at the Historical Society's Flea/Antique Market on Saturday, May 6, at Worcester Township Community Hall.
2. Recently the Planning Commission confronted the issue of a subdivision (but not land development) proposal that created lots that do not conform to current zoning and land development requirements. Our current ordinances do not prohibit the subdivision of lots that are not legally conforming lots. FOW will ask Planning Commission members to consider an amendment to our ordinances requiring that any new lots be conforming lots, whether land development is proposed or not.
3. Susan has prepared a map of public water and sewer lines in the township which is current through 2000. She was asked to work with the Montgomery County Planning Commission to bring this map up to date.

#### **FOW 2006 meeting dates and events:**

Meetings –Wednesdays: March 8, April 12, and May 10. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. at Bean Road Nursery (corner of Bean & Whitehall Rds.)

Horse Show – Saturday, June 3, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Caughlan