

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

Present: Kim David, Ken Lord, Chris Lord, Marie Amato, Jeannie Steigerwalt, John Iacovetti, Mike Troemel, Barb McMonagle, Doug Rotondo, Susan Caughlan

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

**President's Report.** There was no report.

**Treasurer's Report.** We discussed the benefits of presenting quarterly financial reports at meetings, so that we can keep track of our contributions and expenses more frequently than annually. Barb McMonagle volunteered to prepare these reports.

**Contribution and Support.** Barb McMonagle reported that we are still receiving contributions in response to our annual fundraising letter.

**Fundraising/Hospitality.** The Horse Show was discussed. FOW will have the food tent as usual, and the Farmers Union Horse Co. will organize the raffle and flea market. We discussed selling photo note cards using Don Atkinson's photos of the Methacton Oak with a FOW sticker on the back.

The Photo Contest theme will be "Animals in Worcester." Susan will contact the high school photography teacher and send her the entry form.

### **Township Reports.**

**Board of Supervisors.** The Board authorized CKS Engineers to do a feasibility study on the sewer situation in Center Point. The Board had received a complaint from a resident on Crest Terrace (in Worcester Acres) regarding 30-year-old septic systems in that development. We discussed our concern that providing sewers to a larger area of Center Point will increase development potential in a large area in the center of the township. Another problem with expanding the public sewer system is that in homes served by private water (as in this subdivision), the treated effluent from private septic systems contributes to effective groundwater recharge. Without this recharge, private wells could be in danger of running dry. Susan was asked to draft a letter to the supervisors expressing these concerns.

**Planning Commission.** The Germantown Pike Corridor Study is being undertaken by the county. The first initiative is to coordinate the traffic signals from Colledgeville to Plymouth Meeting, to keep traffic moving.

The PA turnpike widening is likely to affect the development of the Kibblehouse farm on Weber and Berks Rds.

**Zoning Hearing Board.** There were several residential applications for pools.

**Joint Meeting.** Work on the Comprehensive Plan will resume as soon as the Open Space Plan has been finalized.

There is an opportunity for the township to negotiate a blanket license with PECO for use of their rights of way in the township for possible future trails. The license would still be subject to leases between PECO and various landowners.

Gambone Development Co. had received permission to build two extra lots in the Kumpf-Bell subdivision in exchange for agreeing to leave the 19<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse standing. Since they demolished this house, the township is in discussions with the developer to determine a remedy.

The WPC discussed their desire to draft a village/commercial ordinance to be used in our villages to preserve the village character and make them more pedestrian friendly.

The issue of nonconforming lots in minor subdivisions that are not for land development purposes was discussed. The WPC decided that it is not necessary to change any of our ordinances to deal with this situation. It will be handled on a case by case basis, as it is now.

**Newsletter.** With the spring newsletter around the corner, we will post a notice about ads on our website.

**Outreach.** The Outreach Committee will meet on March 13 to plan a stormwater education program to be offered jointly by FOW and Friends of Lower Providence.

**Website Development.** There is now a web page counter on the township maps page. It includes a small ad because it is a free counter. No one had an objection to the ad.

### **Current issues.**

**Demolition and historic preservation.** The township Historic Preservation Committee has reviewed ordinances from other townships which are intended to discourage demolition of historic structures. The committee will recommend that the Worcester Planning Commission draft a similar ordinance.

**Growing Greener ordinances.** We discussed the importance of supporting the township's initiative to pass these ordinances to keep Worcester green.

**Open Space Plan.** The Open Space Plan is close to completion. It will be presented to the public in May or June.

**Web-based survey.** We reviewed several questions suggested by Ken and Chris Lord's committee. It was proposed that we print the survey in the newsletter and allow readers to answer the survey on paper or on our website. The committee will develop additional questions and bring them to the next meeting. We will try to keep the survey short – ten questions or less.

**Other.** The importance of meeting with the township's representative to the North Penn Water Authority was emphasized. Several of the larger new developments in the township are using public water. Public water facilitates development by freeing the developer from the concern that water may not be available on a lot, or that deeper wells may be required, at extra expense.

**Administrative Assistant's Report.** Susan updated our township map of public water and sewer lines; prepared a White Paper on open space preservation strategies and funding sources; updated our website; worked on support for the Growing Greener ordinances; and sent thank-you letters to our contributors.

### **New Business**

1. The issue of builders' signs on parcels under development was discussed. The township sign ordinance permits one sign advertising the new development on each road on which the parcel fronts.
2. Susan was asked to contact insurance companies to look into commercial general liability insurance for the group.

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

**Meetings** –Wednesdays: 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